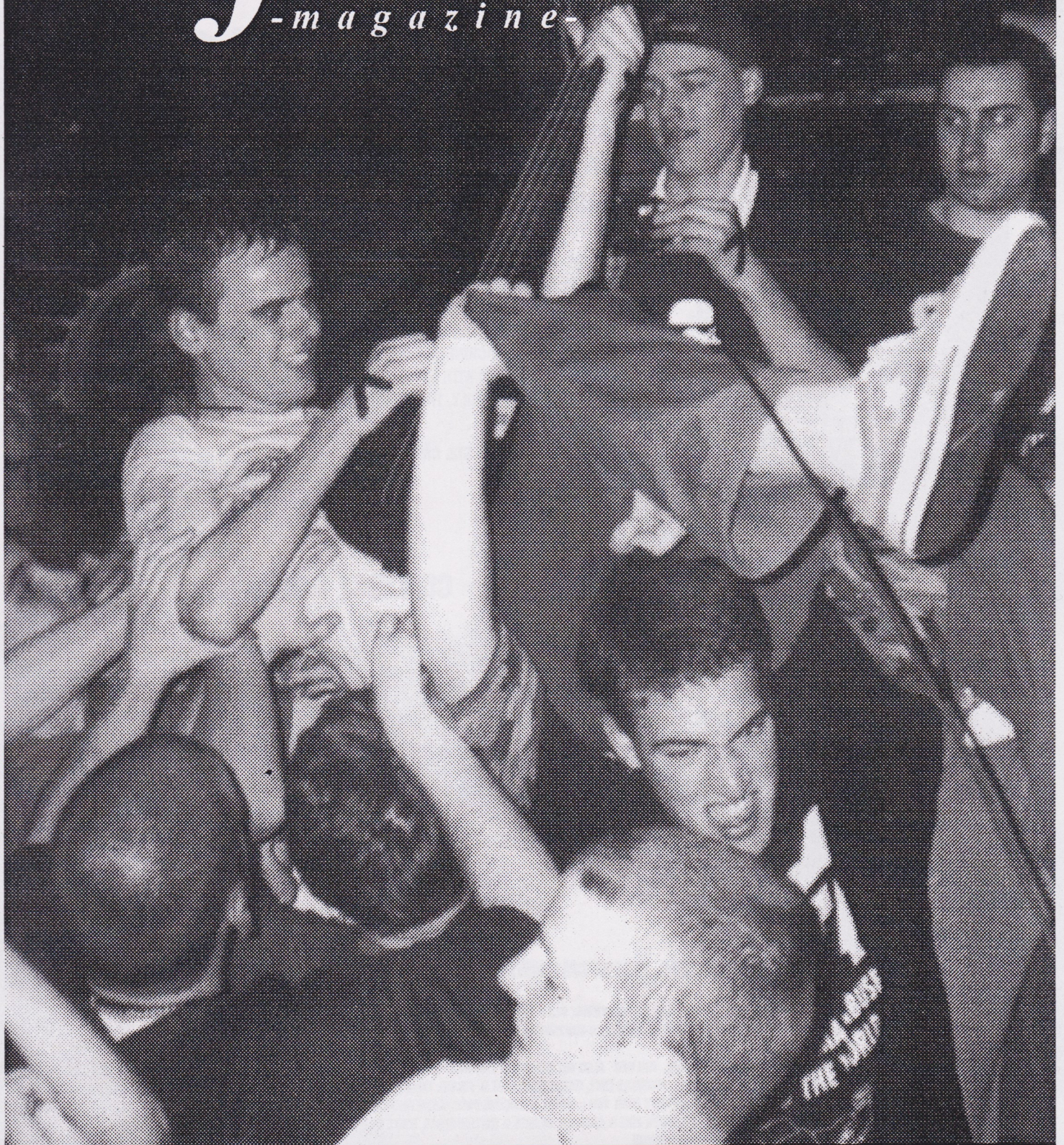


reflections

- m a g a z i n e -



THIS ISSUE FEATURES:

the 'what we share' compilation 7" and
interviews with mainstrike • spirit 84
atari • reaching forward • thumbs down
lifesign • endstand • reviews & more

#10

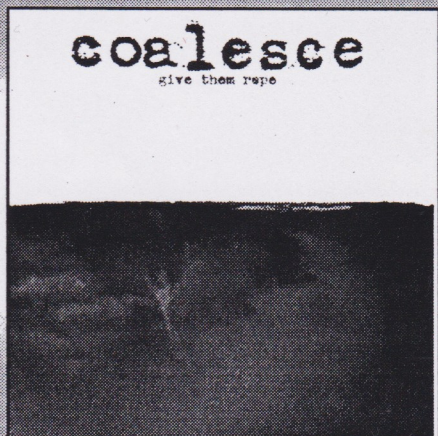
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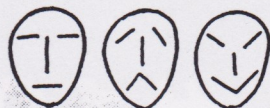
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Photographers: Suzanne, Johan, and some really cool hardcore kids

Back issues: issue #8: interviews with veil, pole, liar and snapcase along with stuff on shelter, disrespect, columns, diaries and just a whole lot more. it's 52 pages. Issue #9: interviews with rob pennington, dave smalley, project kate, youngblood records, culture, integrity and a whole lot more. 64 pages.

Distribution: reflections magazine is published roughly four times every year and is distributed through various big and small distributors. we are however always looking for people who are willing to help us out with distribution or otherwise. we need people who care about our scene: our music, our lifestyles and our culture. so get in touch! we need your help

to spread our words. when you're doing a zine yourself: we are interested in trading. we want to help you out and are willing to trade larger quantities as well. also, when you're doing a band and have trouble distributing your fresh demo, 7" or cd, let us know. when we like what you're doing, we might want to trade or buy some copies as well. always get in touch first!!! We're also planning on doing more records in the future so send in demo's!

Help wanted: we are always looking for people that want to contribute to reflections. writings, photos, paintings are all really appreciated and we are willing to publish things in upcoming efforts from us.

Advertising rates: drop us a line, give us a call or send us an e-mail. we are fairly cheap and easy to deal with. when your ad is that of a written publication, we prefer trading. zine editors should help eachother out anyway! so if you're interested for any of the upcoming issues, please be fast. we use the money to improve this magazine more and for any of our upcoming projects. we however don't want reflections all covered up with ads.

Philosophy: reflections is not a magazine that pins itself down on just one philosophy be it straight edge, veg(etari)anism or whatever you can think of. due to our lifestyles it is understandable that we focus a little bit more on spiritual and straight edge topics than say black metal bands but we definitely don't want to label ourselves to any division, be it musical or not, what so ever.

Thanks and hello:

People: Parents and family, Jan Coert 'Twentyland straight edge' & Chantal, Bhakta Sebastian, Frido, Jeroen, Big & Manon (plus cats & plukken), Pepijn, Jonas, Johnny, Johannes, Henk, Jos, Bart, Nor-B, Harm, Erik, Alex, Robert Voogt, Johan, Mirjam, Els, Rianne & Roel, Jan 'veganblackmetalwarrior' Albert (Hardline Fryslan?), Lieve, Jean-Paul V.O.S., Ferry Threesome, Samkirtanaika (no excuses!), Jef, Marcel and Guiding Line, Bhakta Patrick & Kesava-priya, Johan Koekrand, Steven Tuffin, Chris Teamwork, Joe Onlife and the Youngblood team, Lenny Micarelli, Dan Askew, Sander Monkey, Bas (brother monkey?), Ed & Pascale Goodlife, Brigitte, Tim, Chris Combat the Atari coach, Jeff Terranova and Smorgasbord, Peter 'Crucial' Hoeren, Rudiger Lifeforce / Cartel, Andy Initial, Thorsten Pateline, Raoul, Nils, Lien Sonic Rendezvous, Equal Vision records, Udo SFT, A.J. Resurrection records, Impression recordings, Andy Initial, Coalition records, Division records, Alain RPP, Tomas Jernberg, Finland (Jani, Annti, Janne), Elmar (Give it a voice), Benny (Keep it alive), John Very, Adele Collins, Rob Pennington, Andy (Two face mailorder), Keith Cause for Alarm, Ronny Rain on the Parade and everyone we forgot and thinks he or she deserves to be on this list as well!

Zines: Second Nature, Monkey, I stand alone, Sense of Guilt, One Step Down, Tension Building, Hardblood, Het lelijke eendje, Dogprint, Windchill, Twentyland straight edge Newsletter.

Bands: Rancor, Hands Tied, Mainstrike, Lifesign, Thumbs Down, Reaching Forward, Spirit 84, Atari, X-men, VitaminX, 97a, Rain on the Parade, Ensign, Guiding Line, Grade, By The Grace of God, Culture, Rad, Ensign.

Inspiration: Sri Krsna and Srimate Radharani, Srila Prabhupada for guidance and shelter. respect!



Playlist: rain on the parade-full speed ahead 7" (who can possibly beat this one?), refused-the shape of punk to come cd., atari-we'll be fighting 7", joshua-forever, culture-pillars, down by law-all scratched up cd., morning before-demo, embrace cd., hammerfall-glory to the brave, 97a-everything, get up kids/coalesce split 7".

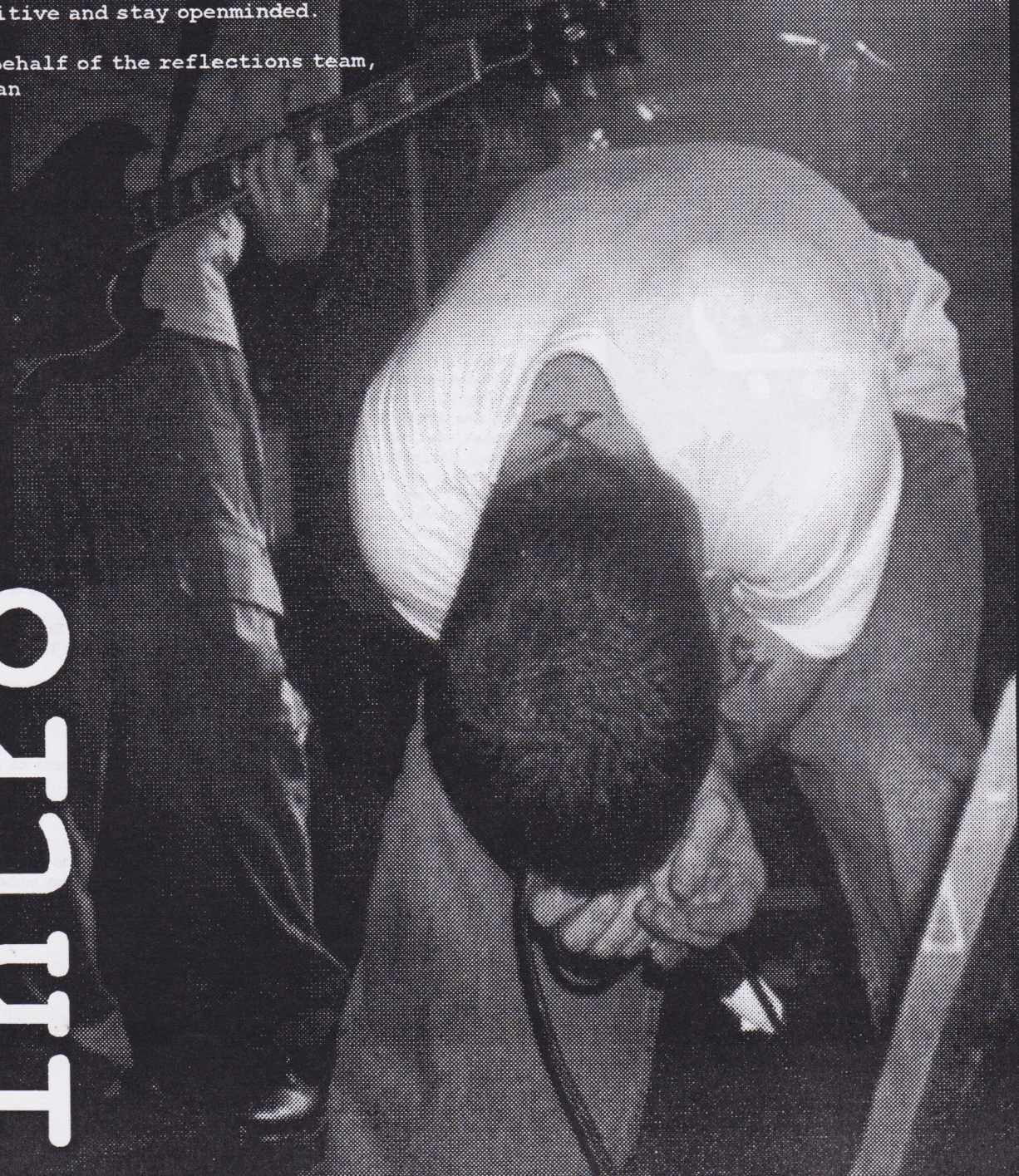
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Hello and welcome to our 10th issue! Even though we planned this a little earlier I think that we're fairly on time. We kinda calculated that delay as we had so much to arrange with the compilation 7" and all but I think that we succeeded in doing a pretty good job. Well, at least there's two people that are happy with this!

Things have been pretty hectic the last couple of months and we were actually thinking of taking a little break now. Well, we won't! (Suzanne: "Oh fuck!") We have already done some great stuff for issue #11 so I guess it won't really take that long to see yet another publication. But let's focus on this effort first. We're happy to have covered a great deal of the Dutch scene with bands like Spirit 84 and Reaching Forward. There's so much happening that we thought it wouldn't be more than 'normal' to put some attention where it's deserved! Having Atari in this package is my own personal kick. Man, do I love that band! Too bad that Lifesign already called it quits. We heard about that even before we got this thing all done. Well, at least we're able to give 'em a little bit of a document to have things remembered. I'm personally really happy to have done the chats with the guys from Mainstrike. If there's one band that deserves attention than it's Mainstrike. Not only for their great music, maybe even more for their great personalities! Anything else that's worth to be said here? Nah, I don't think so. There are some writings in here from the both of us. Go figure that out. Hey, you know what? Come up to us and let us know what you think about reflections. You might help us in doing things better in the future. We hope that you enjoy reading this (while listening to the 7"!). Have a good time, be positive and stay openminded.

On behalf of the reflections team,
Johan

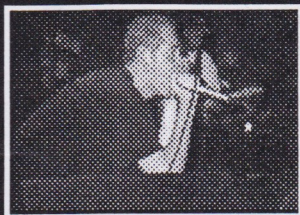


intro

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mailbox.

Johan,

Thanks for your zine, it doesn't look bad. But I have some things that I wanted to let you know. I'm happy that you wrote about Ieper being really cool. I personally think that it's an awesome festival where I always get the chance to meet 'far away' contacts. And yes, just as last year there were no real problems. Ieper got it's bad name mainly by people who never even were there. The one thing that I didn't like was your review about the Earth Crisis show and than I'm mostly about the 'condemnation' you gave to the guy in the Chain of Strength shirt.

I think everyone has the right to wear whatever he or she wants and that there's quite some difference between a skrewdriver shirt and a Chain of Strength shirt. Sure, it's obviously to think that someone who wears a Skrewdriver shirt is a racist but should a person really be straight edge to wear a Chain of Strength shirt or could it be that he/she just happens to like the music? I think it's pretty stupid to conclude something just by the clothes a person wears and then especially by Mr. Karl Buechner (Earth Crisis-singer). Isn't that the guy who makes a living off his message now? The kids happen to be cooler. In a scene where respect is so important I think that certain actions are pretty stupid and when you convict that person for smoking while he's a vegetarian? I'm sorry but when I read such things, I kinda sense a 'better than you' feeling. Isn't it a little too easy to mark 16 year old kids as sell-outs? When I got in touch with SxE and hardcore it was all about music as well. It took quite some time 'till I realized/learned that it was more than just music. Ofcourse there are a lot of 15/16 year old kids who just come waving along for a while searching for their own identity but that's normal isn't it? Alright, almost done moaning. There just one thing that I want to mention: Metal.

Especially from the 'old-school' side this part of hardcore gets a lot of criticism. "Metalcore shouldn't be hardcore and brings nothing but violence and it's for satan-worshippers." First of all, I think that hardcore isn't a musical style but some sort of feeling, a way of thinking, a certain (critical) look at society and everyone has his/her own way of expression. And whenever you play metalcore you also get lyrics and artwork that have the same connection. People use a certain way to write lyrics (see Invidia interview, Value of Strength zine). The fact that everything is spiced up with pentagrams, 666'es and upside-down crosses has in my opinion not so much to do with real satanism (although there are rumors that certain bands sacrifice goats) but it's more of an image that fits with it. Lyrics are often a lot more negative. I personally think that lyrics about child-abuse, by media created ideal-standards, animal abuse and the destruction of our earth can't be really positive. Lyrics about unity, SxE and other nonsense are positive. SxE is a personal choice where I feel comfortable with. But SxE in itself doesn't mean anything. People who don't drink, don't smoke and don't stick their d**k in everything aren't any better than anyone else. Only when SxE is used as a starting point it changes anything, someone who's a vegetarian does more than someone who is SxE. SxE is my choice to not be a part of the people that drink away every weekend, but to do something positive. (yes, the goal is and will be a better and thus positive world, even though the ways are kinda negative). SxE is also a way of consuming for me. Further on do I think that there's only a place for unity in the pit, giving everyone room enough to do their thing and still 'enjoy' the band together. Be that circlepits, windmillpits or just watching the band.

Unity outside of that does often mean that there's no room for criticism because you might offend a person when you don't agree. Unity does only happen in sects where everybody takes the words of the leader as only truth and where there's no need to think for yourself. What if I used this letter to denounce your religion and stamp it into the ground? There is diversity within the scene and I think that it's normal. Anyway enough for now, whenever you have something to say, write me. I just want to let you know that some

things aren't quite the way I feel them but my writers-talent is often not enough to express my feelings/ideas and that these are all my ideas and that they have no connection with my bands (although some aspects are shared)

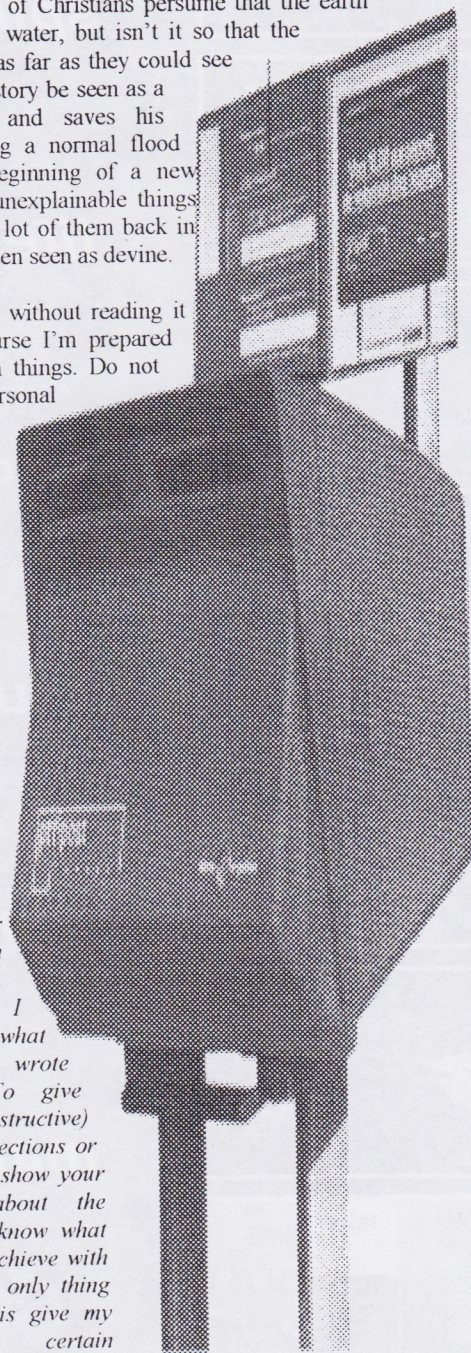
Oh, before I get misunderstood, my opinion on religion. Although I don't believe in anything that I would give the name 'God', I do respect any form of religion where someone gets positive feelings from. The great danger of any religion (and other forms of 'unions' like for example Hardline and in a lesser way, the SxE movement where people use bands /scenesters /zines as a manual) is that people give themselves a sheep-mentality and they swallow everything that laws / rules / books from their movement tell them because they are presented as the absolute truth and they forget to look with criticism or from different points of view. I think, for example that people are wrong when they take the bible literally. A lot of what's in the bible is in my opinion based on truth but should be seen in a certain perspective. For example the story about Noah's arc. A lot of Christians presume that the earth was totally under water, but isn't it so that the earth was as big as far as they could see it? Shouldn't the story be seen as a man who tries and saves his possessions during a normal flood instead of the beginning of a new world? A lot of unexplainable things (and there were a lot of them back in those days) are often seen as divine.

I wrote this letter without reading it afterwards. Ofcourse I'm prepared to explain certain things. Do not see this as a personal attack.

I personally also think that you should know what the message is behind a certain band when you wear its shirt. But you shouldn't judge people on it.

Mime/Jeroen.
Eindhoven,
Holland

Hi Jeroen,
Thank you for your reaction on our magazine. Even though I don't know with what intention you wrote your letter. To give (positive or constructive) feedback on reflections or as an excuse to show your 'displeasure' about the scene? I don't know what you wanted to achieve with your letter. The only thing that I can do is give my opinion on certain



'complaints / judgements' that you mentioned. I shall try to say a little more about that certain piece in that Earth Crisis show-report. At that particular concert I had a conversation with this kid who reacted negative on the Straight Edge stickers that we were selling there with our magazine. It kinda started as a joke. I don't care if someone is straight edge or not, don't let me be misunderstood. The fact that you judge me for 'feeling better than someone else' doesn't really make much sense, you don't even know me! But alright, that guy was pretty proud of the fact that he was a vegetarian (what surely, in itself is more important than being straight edge) while he was bothering me with his sigarette smoke. And yeah, sure there's a certain aspect of irritation in that article. It's kinda hard to describe that situation. And that the guy was wearing a Chain of Strength shirt... Everything that that band stood for, at that point, that guy was the total opposite.

About metal in the scene. You're pretty much generalising when you say that: "Metalcore doesn't seem to be hardcore and brings only violence and is for satan-worshippers..." I mean, why are you writing that to me? I certainly love that 'old-school-style' the most but I like Culture or Liar's new record as well! I do think that all the pentagrams, 666'es and upside down crosses are negative. (Even pathetic. Satan is about evil, those upside down crosses and 666 is about satan, not only do I think it's useless, it's also negative). The fact that you write "What if I used this letter to denounce your religion and stamp it into the ground", I don't get that either. Why should you? And that's just for the fact that you write that...

Hardcore is something that can't really put into words. You can't 'be' hardcore from one day to another. Hardcore is my life. (I think that thousands of people said that and that they all meant what they said. Fact is, that from the people that were involved ten years ago only a few are left...). Straight edge is indeed more than just a set of rules. We both also see that as a foundation. From there on we try to consume/live with criticism. The unity you wrote about: What's

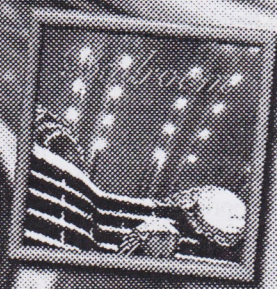
going on right now in Holland with (especially) all these new bands (Lifesign, Guiding line, Reaching forward etc. etc.) that gives me a feeling of unity. A positive atmosphere at shows... Hardcore isn't old-school or metal or emo or whatever. It's just that I think that people within this scene should try and point that finger a little bit more to society instead of pointing it at eachother. Disagreements and discussions are all okay but we should take care that we're not creating so much diversity that it destroys the (huge) scene of today. That would be a real shame! Sometimes it's better (and that goes for myself as well!) to watch your words. What you wrote about the bible is probably hurting a lot of people. The explanation you give to that particular story is in principle just as 'dogmatic' as what you judge christians for.

Don't see this as a personal attack towards you, that's the last thing that I want and also totally unneeded... I just think that it sometimes is better to not speak. With reflections it sometimes is inevitable to give my opinion, and I think I have every right to do so as well. That I have to give an explanation everytime is something else. My most important intention is and will be to give people a good feeling. Positive (with criticism) thinking, that's my ideal. If people get something from it, that's great. It isn't however my intention to make people follow my own way of live/opinions or anything like that. Nobody have to agree with 'my' spirituality. I do however expect a little respect. I don't think that it was very tactful to put two upside down crosses and 666 underneath your letter. When I would start with Hare Krishna or close with "Hari Bol" you would be offended too, wouldn't you? But alright, everyone has the right for his/her own opinion. I hope to hear from you! Take care!

Johan

(Even though I expected a letter back, I never heard anything of the guy again!)

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**"The music and the feelings of the kids that really care.
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ATARI

hardcore

When I have to pick a favourite song for last year, I don't have to think long... "Times together" on the Growing Stronger compilation (Teamwork records) from Atari. I must have played it ten times in a row. Their debut 7" was the next thing: again totally overwhelmed by Atari's awesome energy and positivity, I decided to write 'em a letter and ask to contribute to our own compilation. To be honest, I didn't expect much. Well, you've seen it; they're on. As it's hard to do 'live' interviews with bands from the US, I sent out an interview to their roadie (and actual first singer) and had it answered by at least one of them. Brett, their singer wrote the next answers down. I could've done a way better job than this but I don't want them to be left out. The only thing left to say is a big thank you to Chris Combat. You rule!

Can you give an introduction, history of the band?

Atari was formed in the summer of 1994 when a bunch of us were hanging out after skating, talking about how much fun it would be to start a hardcore band which sole purpose would be to play fast music, going off and having fun. From that day, only myself (Brett-Vocals) and Nate (guitar) have remained in the band. Jon-drums, Andy-Guitar and Bryan-bass all joined the band later on after we went through a bunch of line-up changes over the first two years. Chris Combat was our original singer while I attempted to play bass. He's our roadie now and grew a beard for the holiday season. Jon would not appreciate me revealing his age so I won't. However all of us can be tried as adults.

What's the main purpose from Atari?

Our purpose as a band is the same as when we started. Play hardcore, have fun. All our lyrics can be taken at face value, which will pretty much explain what we're about.

What does straight edge mean to you? How important is it in your life?

Straight edge means I don't drink alcohol, smoke or do drugs. That's it.

There is however a certain mindset that goes along with it too. The computer nerd who sat behind me in highschool wasn't straight edge just because he didn't drink either. You need to believe in it and not be afraid to say it. I think that's a big part of being straight edge too. My opinion of the whole straight edge movement has varied many times since I first identified with it, but there has never been a time where I found myself questioning my own personal commitment. In other words, even when I was surrounded by assholes who called themselves straight edge I never stopped identifying myself. I guess in that sense it's a personal choice.

Can you explain that 'hardcore feeling'? Could you describe it?



I guess hardcore makes me proud in the sense that I'm part of a movement where I can pay 5 bucks and see 5 bands and not have bouncers pushing me off the stage for singing along and not see any of these bands on MTV and not see any of these bands shirts for sale at the mall. Somewhere along those lines is how hardcore makes me feel. That's a tough question and I'll probably think of something better as soon as I put this in the mail.

What other interests do you have besides the band?

Skateboarding, snowboarding, shooting bottle rockets out of Andy's (Rancor) ass, listening to Howard Stern (see the movie!-johan).

Anything about the future? What about bigger labels?

We are writing new songs which we hope to release in the form of another 7" or possibly an album if we get enough written. As far as big labels are concerned, anything you can buy at the mall is not hardcore.

Don't you think that there's a limit in singing about unity etc all the time. There's often a lot of the same kinda lyrics with the so called 'oldschool' bands...

I understand what you're saying, but with Atari, I won't write lyrics until I

can put 100% of myself into it. In other words I never write lyrics just so a song can be finished. I have to believe what I'm singing or else it doesn't mean a thing. In that sense I don't think we even have a limit. 20 songs about friendship is better than 1 song about something nobody can relate to.

Could it be a certain 'lack' of interest in 'deeper' issues?

Within the so called 'metalcore' scene there seem to be more bands covering issues that go beyond the usual straight edge topics.

I don't see it as a 'lack' of interest in these issues with the 'oldschool' bands. I see it more as, these bands sing about this stuff and those bands sing about that stuff.

Four Walls Falling sings about politics, Atari sings about moving up front at shows. Who's right and who's wrong. Neither. For me, I'd be kidding myself if I sang about environmental problems.

It's not like I'm all for burning down the rain forest, it's just that I never really got that involved with the whole 'environmental' issue.

Now that the 'oldschool' thing is coming back, don't you see some sort of separation between the people

obvious difference between Earth Crisis and Floorpunch. I know some really young kids that are into Floorpunch and I know some older kids who are into Earth Crisis and vice versa. Granted things are different now than they were in 1988 but guess what, in 2007 kids

are gonna be saying how they were around back in 1997. So yes, there is a separation but I think it's inevitable for obvious reasons.

What question should I have asked you and didn't?

You should have asked if any two members of the band ever shared an apartment with someone who won the grand prize on Nickelodeon's

Finder's Keepers in

the late eighties. (right, I don't understand this either, ha, ha-johan)

Anything else that's on your mind?

Don't rollerblade. Thanks for the interview and good luck with the zine.



interested in that type of music and the ones interested in the new-school type of thing?

In some ways it does. Although they are both straight edge bands, there is an



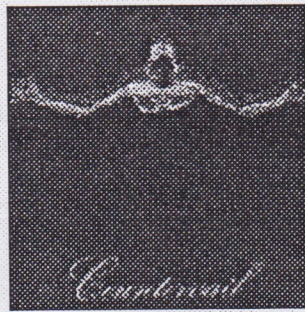
"Twenty songs about friendship is better than one song about something nobody can relate to."



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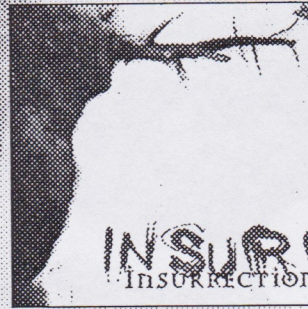
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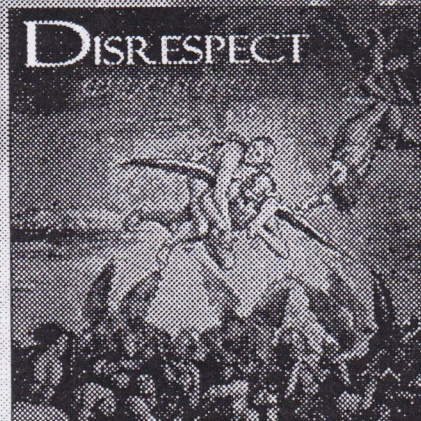
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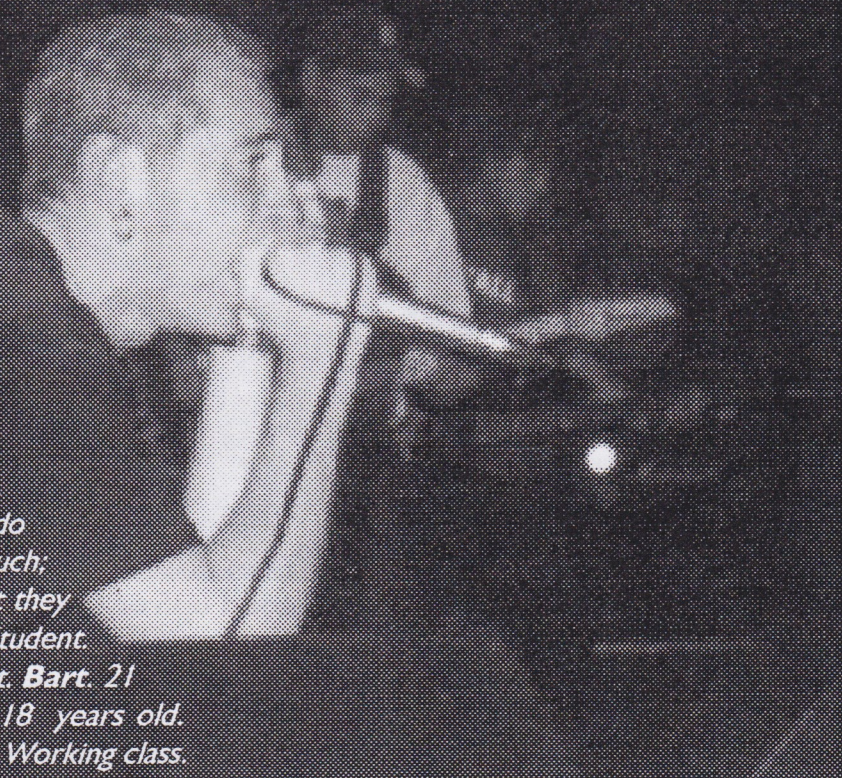
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Spirit 84 was actually the first band that we asked to appear on our compilation. And their awesome music wasn't our only reason. Spirit 84 is a band that is based on friendship and the love for the hardcore that they play. Honestly, I wasn't surprised to hear that they insisted that the interview had to be with the whole band. Everybody or nobody. How much more proof of friendship do you need? To not disturb things too much; these are the members and this is what they do: Henk. 19 years old. Guitar. Student. Johannes. 18 years old. Vocals. Student. Bart. 21 years old. Drums. Student. Norbert. 18 years old. Guitar. Student. Jos. 21 years old. Bass. Working class.



Reflections: One of the first things I wanted to talk about and that may set some things straight: You are not a straight edge band, right?

Johannes: Yeah, some people think we're a straight edge band. Well, we're not.

Reflections: You appear in flyers and newsletters as being straight edge.

Johannes: We want to set that straight. I mean, Norbert came with the band and he isn't straight edge either, so there's two members who aren't straight edge.

Reflections: What description should people give you? A positive hardcore band?

Henk: Something like that. That's cool. The "famous" 88-style maybe...

Reflections: Did you get the name from the H2O song?

Jos: No. There's something else. The village where we live, the zipcode is 8411... It has nothing to do with anything else, I mean, we heard about H8000 (which is also named after a zipcode -reflections) after what we did. And we kinda had this crew that we named that way. And our band is like the spirit from the 'old-days' and we wanted to use that. So, that's what the name is about.

Reflections: And is it that because that style is what you grew up with, or that was the style you heard and liked the most?

Jos: I think, with me and Henk... It must have been four years ago or something.

Johannes: Six for me I think...

Jos: It was through the more well-known bands like Sick of it All.

Bart: I got a tape from a friend of mine and this guy is a friend for ten years or so, and I was still really into metal, and this tape had Gorilla Biscuits, Visual Discrimination and Youth of Today and that's about six or seven years ago and since then... That's my music!

Henk: The Misfits are my roots.

Reflections: The Misfits! That's cool!

Henk: I got a tape from that band when I was 13 or something and I loved it!

Reflections: And the positivity, that old-school feeling is what you're trying to bring across. But you're not anti-metal or something. You're not going like: Metal has nothing to do with hardcore or anything. Oh, Johannes got a Morning Again shirt!

Henk: No. But I think... Hardcore is more like a 'feeling'.

Reflections: Sure, it is. But what is that feeling? Could you describe that feeling?

Henk: Togetherness. Doing something together. Going to bands together.

Reflections: But in the metal-scene is it the same...

Henk: But then you got the lyrics... The lyrics are empty from those bands. And I don't know with what kinda feeling they wrote their lyrics. But with hardcore. When you sing along with those lyrics. You can identify yourself with those lyrics.

Reflections: Which one of you writes the lyrics? Or are you doing that together?

Johannes: No, not together. Well, we all write lyrics but it's mainly Henk and Bart.

Reflections: Because, I've got your demo and the song "Decline" is about keeping the scene small, but in what way? What do you mean with that?

Bart: pfff... Well, hardcore to me it's like... I mean it's to almost no one just music but there are people where I share my compassion with. And there are people where I got the idea that hardcore doesn't mean as much as it does to me. And it doesn't matter so much. Because, hardcore is 'my' music but I also go and see ska-bands but I'm an outsider there that is just skankin'.

Reflections: You feel an outsider there?

xBart: Kinda, but that's not the point. What I mean is that there are a lot of people that are only in it for a year or so and when I ask 'em about their favourite bands they sum up five metal-core bands and that's just...

Reflections: Isn't that the frustration of the older people in hardcore? Ha, ha.

Bart: Yeah, maybe...

Reflections: It kinda is not fair... That's what I mean because you must have gotten into by someone else as well.

Bart: Yeah sure, But I don't know... To me the hardcore scene is... When I wear a shirt and nobody knew what it was. When I had this Biohazard shirt and I saw someone with a Sick of it All shirt then you said hi. And now it's... When I walk through town I see 13 year old girls wearing Sick of it All

shirts because that band played on Pinkpop (a huge popfestival in Holland-reflections).

Reflections: But isn't that something that you can't do anything about? I mean, the hardcore scene here in Holland has never been as big as it is today...

Henk: Sure. But people has to be serious about it. It shouldn't be another trend like hip-hop or something. It shouldn't be like: "Oh now I'm gonna get rid of this shirt and I'm going to pick on some new bands now."

Reflections: Okay, I understand what you mean. But still... I see that in hardcore as well... People who only bought the metal-stuff are now totally into the new old-style bands like Atari and Rancor... But okay... The song "No Concern" did you also write that song Bart? The lyrics kinda reminded me of 'True 'till death' from Chain of strength...

Bart: I wrote that song after a conversation I had with my dad. Now he isn't like 'negative' about what I'm doing but he still is a bit like: "Well, you're already 21 and you're almost done with your education and then you got to get a job" (everybody starts laughing now) and I come home and they ask me how it is and I go: "Oh, it's totally great! We did another show and the demo is doing well!" Stuff like that. And they go "And how's school?" I mean, I know guys who are in their thirties and they still do a band. And so many say: "what a losers!" And that's like... I don't have the ideal to get old and just sit on the couch and watch 'Wheel of fortune'. And I also say: "Ten years from now, who knows what I'll do?". I don't say "true 'till death'".

Reflections: I will!

Bart: Ha, ha, well, I can't imagine anything else myself. But you know what I mean... you just never know.

Reflections: And do you, as people, show people that you're hardcore? Do you tell people? Are you preaching?

Henk: It's like against society in a way.

Reflections: But is that 'just to be against it', like most punks seemed to be and have this nihilistic view. Just 'no future'.

Jos: I don't know. That 'against society' ... I don't see that so much in the hardcore scene. There's so much in the hardcore scene that you also see in society. All these hypes. You can't really change that.

Reflections: Sure, but what I mean is...there are certain things in society that are wrong. Hardcore is an alternative for that. It tries to change things. I mean you got this song "Bite Back" about animal rights. Are you all vegetarians / vegans?

Bart: I'm not...

Jos: I'm vegan and I think that that's kinda strange. When I play a song with my band I want to stand behind my lyrics one hundred percent. And we spread that message and everybody is behind those lyrics, also the non-vegetarians... I don't know if the others



"What stood upfront for me was positivity. Together with your friends doing positive things."



can do that. (referring to Bart and Norbert)

Bart: I see it different. When you have a band that consists of five members and they all preach unity, and they're all straight edge and they're all vegan... Then I think... That's just unity for your own little clique. That's so easy. I think that when people who have all these different ideas and they are still connected by hardcore, they still have that common feeling. And I find it really interesting to discuss with the other guys and see what their motives are otherwise you won't achieve anything. When you go out screaming: "Make a

change" and you don't want to talk to someone because he thinks different, then you'll achieve nothing.

Reflections: And are you doing that in your daily life, like at school as well?

Bart: Well, you know at school... Most people don't understand it anyway. And when it was so easily to understand about hardcore than it probably wouldn't be that cool. I like to be different. Different as the others at school.

Henk: I hate it. You get laughed at at school. I'm doing secondary school and almost everybody is a stereo-typical building constructor. They only can talk about what girls they want to score and what cars they have, how fast those cars are.. And I'm just sitting there with my walkman...

Reflections: But you still socialize with those people...

Henk: Yeah, but that's more about school stuff. We're just too different.

Jos: To me it's different. When you only want to reach people within

the hardcore scene...

Henk: But when you just get laughed at...

Jos: That's no reason to quit.

Johannes: Within hardcore you know that people are prepared to listen.

Jos: But about ideals like veganism...

Henk: When I say that I don't drink beer, they start laughing and they don't even want to talk with you anymore...

Bart: But then again... When we played in Hoogeveen with Spawn, there was this whole straight edge crowd and everyone wanted to talk with Johannes and there were people who didn't even want to talk with me. I'm 'out of step' because I'll have a beer.

Reflections: So, now you are the cool one!

Bart: I'm like the Ian MacKay from today's scene! (everybody's laughing)

Reflections: But did you never have that drive? With the music you listened to and...

Bart: About straight edge? You know with me... All these bands: Youth of Today, Gorilla Biscuits, Insted. What stood upfront for me was positivity. Together with your friends doing positive things. With that, there might be the non-smoking, non-drinking thing... But I don't have that. Like with the newer bands... Earth Crisis is just so negative. Their message is like: "The world is fucked up already but just be straight edge..." you know? And with like Gorilla Biscuits, their lyrics are totally cool.

Reflections: But you never got the intention... When you read their lyrics about it...

Bart: It's like... I think it's just as interesting if someone likes spinach or not. I think it's not interesting if someone drinks a beer or smokes a cigarette. I might drink but everyone can talk to me and have a conversation with me at all times. And I sometimes talk to straight edge people and they just go like: "uuuhhh...". I have to admit that. Especially at that show in Hoogeveen. I'm kinda fed up with it. People can call me arrogant for writing lyrics like "Decline". I may be arrogant towards people who aren't dedicated for hundred percent. You may not drink and you may not smoke... But what does that say about you? What are you doing? What do you think about? Are you a social person?

Henk: But then, no matter what, straight edge separates people. Straight edge people look weird at you but the people who drink are: "Oh, there's another one with an X on their hands".

Bart: But I respect straight edge.

Henk: But there are people who don't respect straight edge and the other way around.

Bart: But you know, if someone is straight edge and he can't accept someone who drinks a beer, that's someone I can't accept either.

Jos: I agree. I am straight edge but we got to tolerate each other. If people can't accept my friends whether they're straight edge or not, I can't accept them.

Reflections: I agree with you. I personally think that living the straight edge is a better lifestyle than not living it that way, but it still IS a personal thing. Who am I to judge? As long as people aren't drunk or whatever that I have to deal with, it's okay with me. Do you (referring to Jos) never get hassled at work? I mean, at most jobs it's pretty common to have a beer at the end of the week, or even worse, have dinner with your colleagues who all eat meat.

Jos: Well, for my job I live somewhere else during the week and the guy who cooks for us, you know I explained him everything about veganism, about what I don't eat and all, and this guy happens to be kinda proud of it. He tells other people about my diet. He's even ahead of me when it comes down to people offering me something with meat, saying: "No, Jos doesn't want that!", and that's pretty cool. I talk about it work. I may not convince people, but hey, they know about it.

Reflections: Are you like this huge bunch of friends where you live? (I got to explain this for foreign readers: Spirit 84 comes from Friesland, that's a province in Holland, it's real 'countryside' and really beautiful, lots of water and lots of green).

Spirit 84 all together (in one big singalong...) YEAHHH!!!! We're all connected.

Reflections: Is that something typical for Friesland?

Johannes: I think it's typical country-side.

Jos: It's maybe not so much us, in a way it is, but in Friesland it's like: All for one. Everybody's helping each other.

Henk: I think it's also because there's still so many little villages where everybody knows each other. It's more personal.

Reflections: Like where we live, it's pretty common that you're always helpfull towards your neighbours and stuff. It's slowly fading but in older generations it's still happening a lot. Neighbours take care of a family when someone died, that kinda thing.



Henk: That's the same here. A typical country-side/little village thing. It's this invisible force that keeps these people together.

Reflections: Do you guys also have that typical nationalistic Friesland feeling that's so 'notorious' in the rest of Holland? Ha. Ha.

Spirit 84: No, that's not us. No Fryslan Boppe! Hardcore Boppe!! (how many of you readers would understand this? I can tell you that it's cool!-reflections)

Reflections: What about 'foreigners' in Friesland. There's a whole lot more 'colored' people in the rest of Holland compared with where you live. Do you recognize that? (especially refering to Norbert who happens to have a bit darker skin as the other guys)

Norbert: Well, together with two others we're the only ones where I live, those are adopted as well.

Reflections: Do you recognize that?

Norbert: Well, here I don't mention anything. Where I live I'm that black kiddie. (everybody's laughing) I don't get bothered or anything.

Reflections: Do you all see that negativity towards foreigners where you live?

(everyone agrees with each other that it's not how it should be and that there's quite some prejudice)

Johannes: I live in this village with about 3000 people and it's really bad. You can't explain it to 'em or anything. You can't talk to them about it.

Jos: That's also something typical. They say it behind people's back. Not straight in their faces. There's a lot of hidden racism.

Johannes: Where I live there's probably one 'foreign' family and it's so frustrating. Those people don't bother anyone and still the people have to react on someone. It's still finding someone 'guilty'. They say behind their backs how they should go back to their 'own' country and all... It's totally ridiculous!

Reflections: Do you feel people have a certain prejudice against Friesland?

Johannes: Lately there was this guy from Utrecht visiting us and we were walking around in Leeuwarden and he was like: "You even got a cinema, and a disco!" and I'm like: "what the... what do these guys think?"

Reflections: I like Friesland! I went there so many times with my parents on vacation when I was this little kid. It's cool to go there. I just love all that water!

Johannes: I wasn't born there, but I'm always happy to go home, and I'm not planning to leave yet!

Reflections: Alright, back to Spirit 84. What are your plans? There's gonna be something out on Goodlife records?

Johannes: We're going to record in February '98 and then we'll see.

Jos: Playing as much as we can. Maybe a tour or something

Reflections: Is there something that people got to know?

Bart: We're Spirit 84, not Spirit of 84!

Henk: People just think about that number as a year. It's not.

Jos: I'm happy you didn't ask about Goodlife. People keep on asking us about it. Why we're doing something with them. They're supposed to be a metal-label, that kinda thing.

Johannes: People think that we choose them or anything. Edward just called us and he invited us and it was positive. We just started Spirit 84 as a project, it kinda got out of hand, people seem to like us.

Bart: What would really bother me if people don't listen to us because there's two of us who aren't straight edge. That's the only thing.

Reflections: Okay, nothing else?

Everyone: Spirit 84 GO!!!

Everyone who saw our latest newsletter must have seen the X-ed up guy pointing his finger to an enthusiastic crowd. Well, that's Erik from Lifesign. From out of nowhere these young men show what oldschool hardcore is all about. Full-on enthusiasm and lots of energy. Right after their 4th (!) show I had a conversation with Erik and Arjan somewhere in the back of this youthcentre in Boxmeer. We had this heater in between the three of us to make it a little more comfortable as it was cold that day. It was kinda cute to see us gathered around that thing to keep warm. I liked talking with these guys. And it's cool to know that even though I'm almost ten years older, I still feel the same as these kids do. Hardcore keeps you young, that's for sure!

Can you introduce the band?

Arjan: I'm Arjan and I'm the bassplayer...

Erik: I'm Erik, I'm the singer.

Arjan: And there's Bob on drums and Wim on guitar.

What's your average age?

Arjan: We're all around 18.

And how did you get in touch with hardcore / straight edge?

Arjan: I guess... Oh man... To be honest...

Okay, everyone is ashamed of their roots! (laughter)

Arjan: Okay, when I was twelve or so I started listening to bands like Nirvana and stuff.

Erik: The same with me. You start listening to Rage against the machine and from there on you just get in touch with hardcore or whatever.

So, it wasn't because of the so-called H8000 bands from Belgium, who really helped getting hardcore more popular, that you got in touch with things?

Erik: No, not at all. It was more bands like Madball or Agnostic Front.

And how long are you together as a band now?

Erik: For about a year.

And you're all straight edge... For how long? From the beginning of the band?

Erik: Well, Bob doesn't want to be called "straight edge". We're all drug free and we don't drink or whatever.

You never were into that stuff?

Erik: No, never!

Arjan: I drank. But that was for about half a year or so. Then I quit.

You never even had alcohol?

Erik: No never! I swear! (laughter) That

means you're straight edge for about eighteen years man! (laughter)

Hey, back there I heard something about 'The Donut crew'? What's that?

Erik: That's like the 'Morriscounty youth crew' from Holland. That's us, the guys from Reaching Forward, the guys from Teamspirit and all the people around it, everyone that's involved around here. Don't ask me how we got to that name 'cause we don't know that anymore! It's something with 'The Simpsons', the cartoon, that's all I know (laughter), the half of us don't even like donuts.

So you're all friends? That's cool! But to something else now: When we were standing outside you were making remarks about the TV crew that's filming here. It's obvious that you don't like it.

Arjan: No, it should stay small...

But then... How did you get involved? Do you understand where I'm heading at? You can't stop it, really.

Erik: I don't like television either. It has no place here. They can't understand it anyway...

But people get in touch with it anyway. It just doesn't seem to stay 'small'. The scene is bigger than ever before. Whenever people are talking about the 'early' days, no way it was as big as it is now! But hmm, how do you think it stays small?

Erik: I think... The real kids will get there anyway. We never saw anything on tv that made us get involved or whatever. I don't know of anybody that got involved because of that issue they did on Mainstrike.

But don't you see straight edge as something that should be heard about? People should know about it?

Erik: The media just makes fun of us!

Sure, I agree with you! It's shown in the past!

Erik: That show with Catherine Keyl (she's like the Dutch Oprah, although that's actually way too much of a compliment. But they had an issue on straight edge - reflections). People are still laughing at me for it at school. And I wasn't even there!

But what if this particular program promises to show it how it is, honestly.

Erik: I just don't believe in it. It's in some sort of youthculture program this time.

You think straight edge is a youthculture?

Erik: In a way I do. The most older people just drop out anyway. I don't know

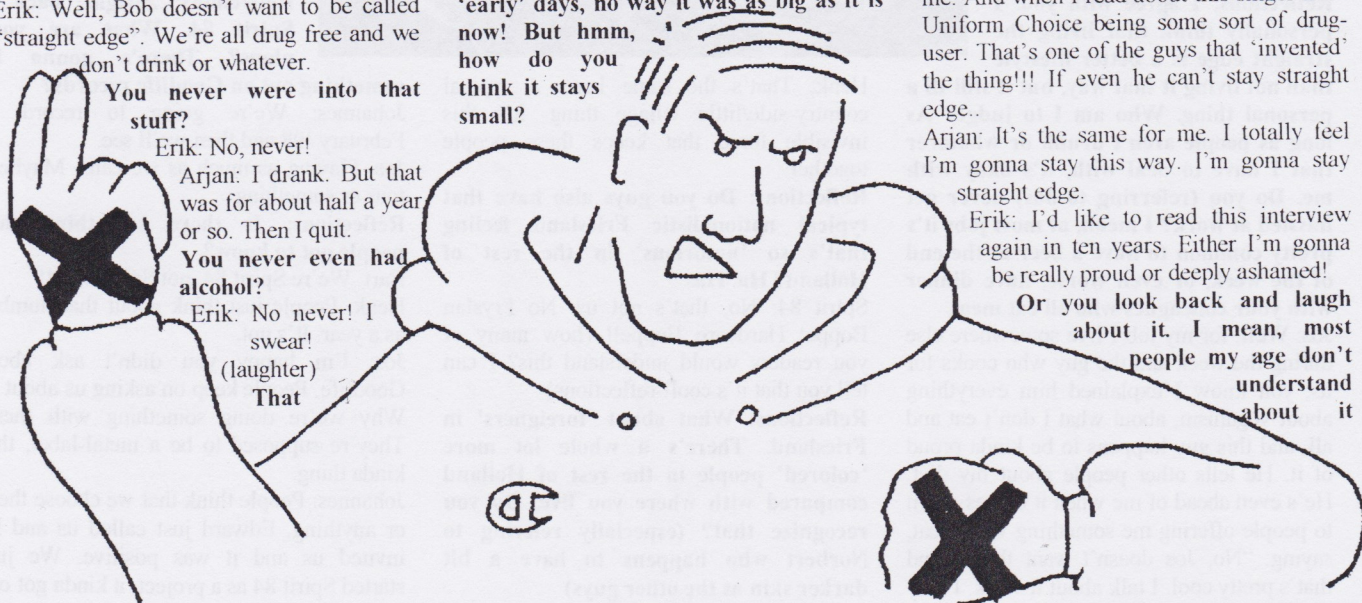
Woohooo, watch your words!

Erik: (laughter) I respect the older people, but there are just so many older ones that quit. I see it happen, you know. The way I feel it for myself: I am straight edge. That's me. And when I read about this singer from Uniform Choice being some sort of drug-user. That's one of the guys that 'invented' the thing!!! If even he can't stay straight edge..

Arjan: It's the same for me. I totally feel I'm gonna stay this way. I'm gonna stay straight edge.

Erik: I'd like to read this interview again in ten years. Either I'm gonna be really proud or deeply ashamed!

Or you look back and laugh about it. I mean, most people my age don't understand about it



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anyway and think it's just a kids thing, you know. Are you telling people about straight edge?

Erik: Most people laugh about it anyway. That's with that tv-thing... They see it on tv and they go like: Oh, you're also one of those "straight edgers" (sarcastic voice).

Is it that worse? I never really noticed that to myself.

Erik: Yeah, it's not that they really bother us or whatever. It's just annoying in the end.

Arjan: It's when you go out or anything, It gets boring in the end; People holding beer before you and just keep bragging about it.

Erik: You know, at school just about everybody smokes pot in between classes. Just everybody.

Maybe that's something that's more of today's problem as well. To me it seems that every kid smokes pot and when I was 16 or so, it were just the alternative people who did that. But that's a result of legalization of pot as well, don't you think?

Erik: The whole legalization is just something... It doesn't solve anything. People will search for that 'kick' anyway. Whether it's legal or not. I don't think it makes a difference.

Are you fanatic in those things. I assume you hang out with people who smoke and drink...

Erik: I'll tell 'em. I for sure tell 'em that they should quit smoking, that it kills them. What makes me really sick is when I see people eating meat. That's the worst. But I'm not really bothering people about that.

And then you have the straight edge. Are you going on after that? Are you working on 'deeper' issues beyond 'just being straight edge'?

Erik: No, not really. Right now it's just "The Straight Edge". I don't feel the need

right now to search for anything going towards politics or the Krishna thing or whatever. I feel so good right now, being straight edge and I totally believe in it and I believe in myself. I'm not searching for a God or anything.

Hmm, maybe I shouldn't go this deep but I do that everytime. It's for sure not meant to influence anyone or something but what I always ask: When for example someone really close to you dies, what do you think that happens?

Erik: I personally think it's just the end.

Okay. I kinda asked this question to Chris from 97a as well. When you don't believe in anything then what's the reason for living a 'good' life? You know, I always try to 'test' issues by putting them into extremes. That's mostly a good way to go to the core of an issue. What I want to say is: When you think that life is just this, what we live now, than you could just as well make a mess out of it. Who cares?

Erik: I think that... When you say: You only live once than you can do it one way or another: You can go out for every kick that you want. Use all the drugs you can get your hands on... Just do that or you can try to do it the best you can, and have a really good time without that stuff.

Arjan: It's about that: Having a good time. I don't need drugs or anything and I have a really good time now, so why spoil anything?

Erik: Yesterday when we played in Amsterdam. Everyone that was with us were just going crazy. And that was without any shit so, we just don't need that! But at the school where I'm at... I'm doing this creative kinda education and for those people it's like a 'necessity'. It's almost a part of it. I'm going to quit that pretty soon I

think. Not just for that reason but it's just not what I want.

What future plans do you have?

Erik: I don't know. I really don't know at all right now. But to go back to the school where I'm at right now: Almost everybody is, how they represent themselves, 'alternative'. And just everybody smokes pot. I'm the only one who doesn't. I'm a real outcast. And the more I'm involved with straight edge, the scene and everything the more people I know, friends, the more I seem to lose them. That kinda sucks.

But there's a lot of good things that you get back from it.

Erik: Sure, but when you meet up with someone after quite some time and you just seem to be grown apart. That's not cool.

That's also about priorities, isn't it? I mean, the band gets bigger for sure. How 'big' do you want it to be?

Erik: Hmm, I like people upfront singing along and all. We like it this way. When all our friends are standing at the front row and singing along the lyrics... That's so cool!

Alright, but when for example Victory records offers you a deal or anything?

Erik: Oh well, I don't want to think about that. I like it the way it is now. This is what we're doing it for.

Arjan: I don't think we even have time for anything like that...

You have other important things as well?

Arjan: Yeah, I study child-psychology. And that's more important than the band. Lifesign is a hobby and when Lifesign should be 'big' or something. I don't want it to be my number one priority you know.

Erik: I have some really good friends and I don't want the band to get in the way of the friendships you know? It happens that when friends call me on the phone and a lot of times I'm not there and I forget to call them

back because I'm too busy with the band, or going to shows or whatever. It shouldn't be that way, but it happens.

But you get a lot in return. You got to choose sometimes between what's most important to you...

Erik: Yeah sure, but that doesn't mean that it should make me feel bad. I think that when the band would get too big we would quit. I don't know, the way Mainstrike does it. How big they are, just playing shows almost every weekend, that would be great. I don't want it necessarily to be bigger than that.

How do you guys think about hardcore and making money off it. Or just the commercial things that happen?

Erik: It bores me you know? Take Goodlife records for example: I don't really like the music that Goodlife releases, but I think that Edward does everything by himself and that he did so much for hardcore in general. What's the big deal?

So you don't mind that people make a living off it? Like Norm Arenas did with Anti-magazine for example, or just a whole bunch of labels...

Erik: it depends what they give back to the scene. When they just take money and nothing else... That sucks. But when they put up shows, do fanzines and support good bands I don't mind.

Would you mind living off the band? When it ever becomes that big?

Arjan & Erik: No, we wouldn't do that. It just doesn't feel good.

This is a question I try to ask everyone as it's about the 7": What 's hardcore? What is that feeling? Could you describe that?

Arjan: It's... When you go to shows and you know each other and you sing a long and... It's hard, I couldn't really describe it.

That's how most people answer.

Erik: It's all about a good feeling.

Do you also have that when you play certain records?

Erik: "Flame still burns" from Youth of Today. That's it. That's THE song! Well, I'm only for about two years in the Straight edge scene and I think I played that record every day! (laughter)

And how about you, Arjan?

Arjan: Well, I'm only straight edge for about eight months or so. And I didn't drink 'till I was eighteen and then I did it for just a little while. I don't really regret anything that I did while being drunk. Just drinking too much and all. It's doesn't feel right. My mom and dad are straight edge as well!

They never drink. They don't call themselves straight edge though! (laughter)
Erik: My dad drinks. Every evening he drinks a big glass of beer!

How about vegetarianism? Did that work out at home?

Erik: We made some appointments on that. When my mom makes macaroni for example, she makes two dishes. One with meat and one without.

Are you thinking about taking it a step further? Into veganism?

Erik: No. I don't believe in veganism. When I look at most vegans they just don't look healthy. Maybe that's something to say but I

That's for sure! But don't you think that a lot of lyrics by old school bands are way not 'intelligent' enough?

Erik: Well, bands like Ten Yard Fight for example... Their lyrics are cool but not really deep or inspiring or anything. There's often a lot of the same, sure. But when you take a band like Atari. I think that they could inspire people to become straight edge. Or maybe they're not the best example... But take Rain on the Parade. Their lyrics are really simple but they can inspire people. Or at least they inspired me! Or Ensign!

Or what Mainstrike does. They improved

so much on the lyrics... Do you see that happen with Lifesign as well?

Erik: I hope so.

On the other hand: "I don't need it" is great already! I love those lyrics!

Erik: Thanks. You know what I think is a great songwriter? Or at least the lyrics? That's Tim from Hands Tied. Those lyrics are so cool. Awesome!

Anything else you want to say? Hey, how seriously 'anti' metal are you?

Erik: Not at all. I don't like the music but I don't care what people listen to or play. I don't mind playing shows with metal-core bands. The diversity is cool. But I just think that within that metal-thing there's too much negativity. It should be more positive! I mean take Catharsis for example. When you say 'keep the metal out of our scene'. Yeah, such bands don't do any good I think. But Veil for example. They're great! We're just against the upside down crosses and

all the darkness. It should be positive! Straight edge is a positive base.

How do you want people to see Lifesign?

Arjan: Fun and happiness.

Erik: Singalongs. Pile-ons. Stagedives. And just... fun! We're also always gonna be playing covers.

Yeah!! Every old-school band should do that!

Erik: Well, we're going to be on a compilation from Siton records and we're doing a Wide Awake cover for that one!

Arjan: And there's going to be a split 7" with Reaching Forward when everything goes according to plan, somewhere in '98.

That's great, hey, thanks for talking!



don't know. That's how I see it.

I am a vegetarian because I don't need to kill animals to stay alive, but whenever I would need meat to stay alive I would do that. Veganism doesn't seem healthy to me right now.

What about the 'jock mentality'? I mean with the 'old school' style comes often that bodybuilding thing: You know weightlifting and stuff.

Erik: What the H8000 crew does and all?

No. It's more the thing with Floorpunch for example.

Erik: Ohhh, That's just funny. I don't take the lyrics too serious. But they're really great to sing a long!!

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EACH ZINE IS \$5 PPD AIRMAIL, PIC: CHAIN OF STRENGTH, BY DAVE MANDEL



Interview by: Jani Leskinen

Endstand was one of those bands who really surprised the audience at the latest Vort 'n Vis festival at Ieper, Belgium. As we always encourage people to get active somehow, be it by sending us photos, poems, demotapes or guest writings, we were very pleased with the Finnish package that drop on the doormat one day. It appeared that our friend Jani Leskinen got up from his lazy chair and had an interesting little interview with Janne, singer from Endstand.

Jani: Could you give us some band info?

Janne: Endstand is going on for about two years now. It's a hardcoreband from 4 guys playing angry and pissed music with a positive message. This is us to put it in short.

Jani: The Endstand discography. What's coming in the future?

Janne: Until now we've released the Fear of future demo, which sucked big time. Gladly there weren't made too many of them. I can't listen to it at all. Then we have released a split 7" with Outlast. At that time we played very metallic stuff. I don't like these songs too much either. Besides they are played so slow. The Tolerance 7" is quite the style we play now, so if you want to hear how we sound like, I would recommend you to get that 7". Or the s/t mcd that will be out hopefully in December 1997. We are going to the studio to record it in about one week. I can't wait to get those songs recorded. They really kick ass. That mcd will be out on Impression recordings from Germany. In the same time we'll record a 7 Seconds song ('Bully') for a 7 Seconds tribute record by Wee Wee records from France. It'll be out somewhere in '98. We're also talking with Swedish Intensity about doing a split 10" or something. That would be great, they are so nice people and a good band. I hope we get that split done. One of our songs, 'Human Beast' appears on Impression recordings 'Mother Earth' comp CD and our song 'Victims' will be on a Free Bird compilation when it comes out. We are also going to record a split 7" with Finnish Crusties, Amen. The reason we're doing that split is to show people that our so-called scenes don't have to be so separated. We play a lot of punk gigs here in Finland and we have no problems between crusties, sxe kids, skins or whatever. We can work together well. I hope it would be more like that in other countries too. I know it's not.

Jani: What's your connection with Sweden's oldschool kids Outlast? Janne: They're very good friends with us. These kids are just so cool and nice I love spending time with them. And their music ... boy, they're the fucking best band in Europe. They know how to rock! I wish we could do a European tour with them some day. It would be something totally crazy. Getting those 4 overactive morons in the same



van with us all the time. I can tell you, we wouldn't have a single dull moment!

Jani: What's the deal with the recordlabel?

Janne: I guess you mean doing this mcd for Impression recordings, do you? I'll tell you about it. We didn't sign any papers, he just said he would like to release it and we agreed. We're getting some CD's for it and he's paying our studio. That's fair enough for us. Hopefully everything goes fine and we can work with him in the future too. Stefan (Impression) seems to be a very dedicated guy. So I don't think there will be any problems. We met him and his wife when we were on tour and they were very nice people. I'm glad to work with them.

Jani: Tell us something about Finland's Hardcore/Punk scene.

Janne: I was telling something about it already earlier, but I'll tell you some more. As I said, it's very united and working well. We have lots of gigs here and a lot of good bands. The bad thing is that hardly any foreign hardcore band comes over here. Some Swedish do, but that's about it. Many punk bands come here, which I'm very glad about, but I miss some hardcore action too. We have to go to Sweden to see those bands. Tonight I'm going to see Homomilitia from Poland and Battle of Disarm from Japan plus some good Finnish bands. Cool!

Jani: What do you think of all age shows and bar gigs (18 years)?

Janne: We've done two age limited gigs 'til now and they've been both good. Of course I'd like to have all the shows for all ages. We just love playing, so we don't want to refuse the gigs we have been offered. We've done like 40 shows and 2 of them have been age limited. So I don't see that as so terrible. Most of the gigs we do will always be all ages, that's for sure.

Jani: You went on tour. How did it go, any good touring stories?

Janne: Oh, yeah! We did this 'Endstand World Wide Tour'. We played in Sweden, Denmark, Germany and Belgium. So almost every person in the world got his or her chance to see us rockin' live. Too bad if you missed us. It was 8 gigs in two weeks and I had the best time of my life then. Everything just went great. We almost had no problems. Well, ofcourse it was pretty hard to travel with 6 guys in one normal car. Everyone thought we were crazy doing it. Ha ha, we're punk. We were supposed to have a van but the day before we left we heard that we couldn't get that van. It wasn't that bad that I



expected it to be with 6 guys. But next time we will have a van for sure. The best gig was in Belgium at the leper festival. It was crazy. Hardly anyone had heard us before and still people were dancing and having fun as if we were a real 'known' band. if you know what I mean. I'm sure I'll remember that gig forever. We really didn't expect to have that good response. If there are people reading this who took part at that particular gig, I want to thank you all for making it such a great show!

Jani: How would you classify your music influences?

Janne: We listen to so much different kinds of music that I can't say where we get our influences. From various great punk/hardcore bands, I think. Everything we listen to probably has got some kind of influence on us.

Jani: Is straight edge, veg(etari)anism a big thing in Endstand, or in your life?

Janne: Well, veganism is, but straight edge isn't. I am straight edge but the other guys are not. For me personally, straight edge is not just a way of living. I don't give it too much thought anymore. In the beginning it was more or less a cool thing to do. I guess it's that way for a lot of people. But now I don't feel the need anymore to X-up my hands. I know I am straight edge and I will be straight edge. I don't need to prove or show it anymore. Since Endstand is not a straight edge band I'd rather not talk too much about this subject. There are a few things I'd like to say anyway. If people can't like or listen to a band just because it's not straight edge, I personally think they really have something wrong with their attitude. I won't ever write straight edge lyrics for Endstand 'cause I feel it is important that the whole band can support the lyrics.

Jani: Where do you get the ideas for the lyrics?

Janne: I get the ideas from life in general. From the issues that piss me off or those that I'd like to change. Normally they come pretty easily, but sometimes it may take some time that I don't get any lyrics don't. But I don't want to force myself to do them, 'cause if I do, they will surely suck. Our lyrics are political and will be. This is a very good way to get my opinions heard. I guess we don't please everyone with it. But for me hardcore is still about communications and sharing ideas and opinions.

Jani: Now something more on the spiritual level ... do you think that religion and hardcore could work out together?

Janne: I'm sorry to say, but no, I don't think they do. I don't think hardcore is music to spread any religious messages with. I strongly support freedom of thinking and I don't think

religions do the same. They just set the rules to live by. I have nothing against religious people in hardcore, but as a movement, I don't think they fit together. Even when I was into metal, I never understood those 'true' blackmetal guys with their Satan stuff. I always thought they were funny, how can anyone be so dark all the time, it seems like they aren't even allowed to laugh or have fun!

Jani: But you have a nickname Saatana (Satan). Where does it come from? Are you friends of Dwid Integrity or something?

Janne: Maybe we should ask this from you and Vosu. I think you morons got it for me 'cause of my metal background. I think it's a cool name, don't you? I saw Integrity play twice in Sweden last spring and Dwid was so scary looking that even if I had gotten the chance to speak to him, I don't think I would have had the guts to do it. I guess Dwid is into that darkside stuff seriously.

Jani: We (Johan, Janne, and Jani) are all big KISS fans. What's your best KISS memory?

Janne: One of them (me) had finally seen them live last summer. The original line-up, with masks on, playing the songs from the time when they kicked ass only. We were like 5-year-old kids waiting for them to come on stage, right Jani? Then I can remember stuff happening years ago, like when the Asylum LP came out. The guy in the local record store told us the exact same times of the commercials of the album coming on TV. It was always so great to see that same commercial. There was Gene (god of thunder & rock 'n roll) and Paul telling how good the album is. I had all my walls covered with KISS poster. I wish I still had them. Oh, there's so many cool memories, too many to write them all down. KISS simply rules!

Jani: You are a big record collector. What are your favorite 7"es?

Janne: Am I? I think you are Jani! I don't even have a third of the records you have. But I have a few rarities. My favorite records keep changing all the time. At this moment some 7"es that kick my butt are: Active Minds - I'm not a tourist..., Judge - New York Crew, Seein' Red - Marinus, Floorpunch - Division one champs and Veil - Time will tell. I like so much more. There's just too much good music in this world!

Jani: You have a distro, right? Do you specialize to some kind of hardcore like oldschool, emo, metal, and vegancore?

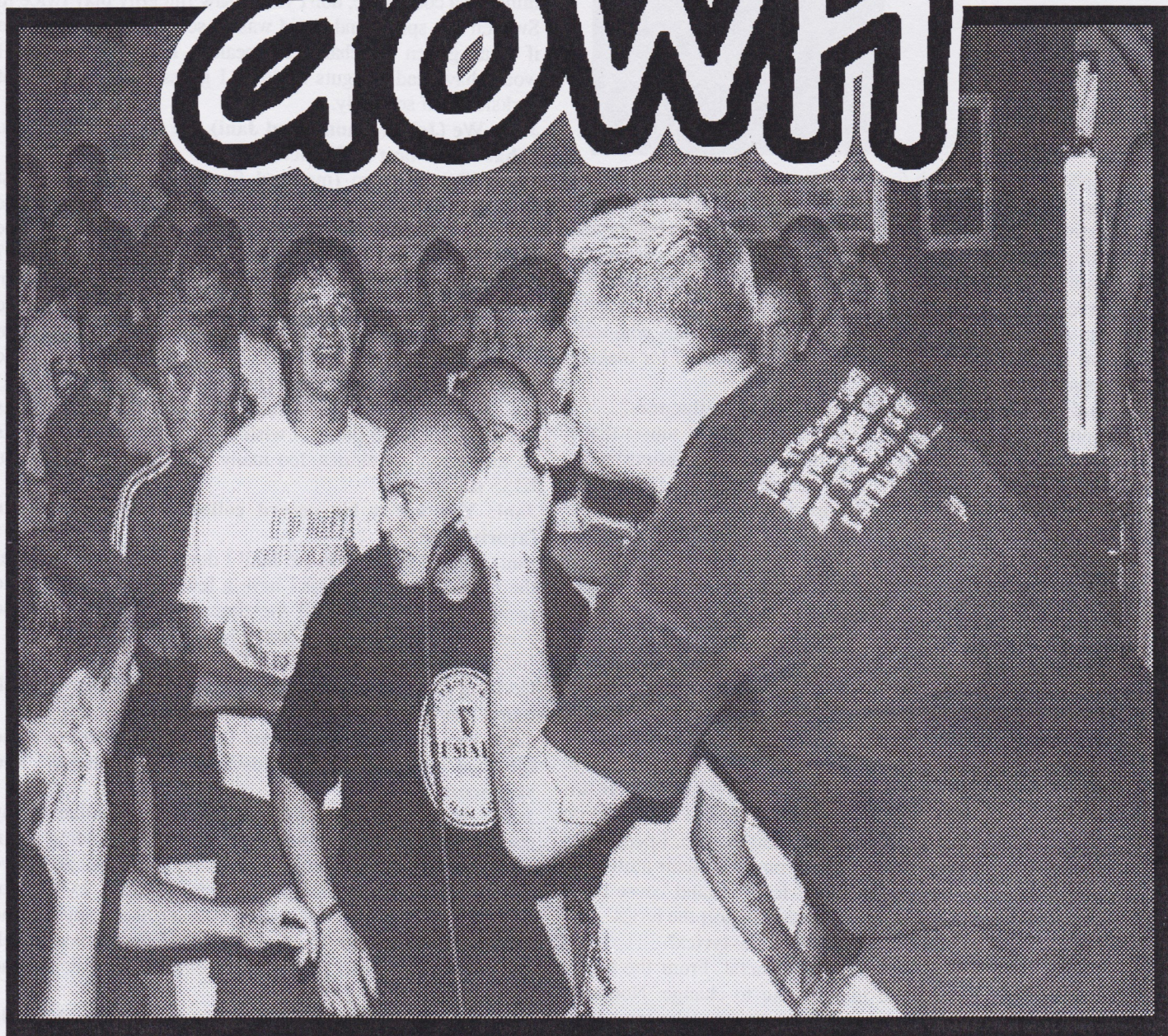
Janne: Yes, I do have a small distro. I can't specialize in any specific style 'cause most of the records I get by trading and it would be very hard to get just ones style that way. So I have almost all kinds of hardcore records. I'm not so fond of selling emo stuff for two reasons. I don't like it myself and hardly nobody buys it from me. If I had the chance to sell only the stuff I like, I'd sell only oldschool hardcore and political punk.

Jani: Finally something I would like to ask you. What do you think of this emocore thing that is slowly evolving to Britpop (example Saidiwas from Sweden)?

Janne: I must say I'm not the biggest 'emo fan' in the world. I have heard Saidiwas on the SxE as fuck part 3 compilation CD and I surely did not like it! I guess the guys have their reasons for playing that kind of music. Maybe they've become adults ...

One of the very few emo bands I like is Bazed coming from my hometown. Everybody is saying they sound a lot like Fugazi, I guess they do, but I don't like Fugazi. Bazed is better!

thumbs down



Even though I had the opportunity to do a 'live' interview with Steven Tuffin, the singer of Thumbs Down, one way or another it didn't work out. We agreed on meeting at the Hands Tied show but things went wrong. So, even though I preferred talking face to face with the man, here's a mail interview with the vocalist of one of Belgium's most promising bands. And if you have your doubts on that statement... check out the reviews in several zines for their recently released mcd on Genet records. Believe me, those reviewers are right!

Can you give an introduction of the band?

Thumbs Down was started in 1996 by Raf (guitar, 19) and myself, Steven (vocals, 22). The line-up was later on completed by Ken (drums, 20) and Roeland (bass, 21). There have been no major changes since.

Why do you play that 'old-styled' hardcore, is that what you like best, or grew up on? What are your main influences in that case?

We play this brand of old styled HC 'cause it's what we like best. But (there's always a but) we don't get anal about the whole 'old school' thing. Yes, it's the style we play and love, but we also listen to lots of other types of music. I realize that old school seems to be the trend for '98, but I really hope that doesn't mean that everybody will change their style. As for influences there is wide range of bands: there are the older NY bands like Agnostic Front, Cro-Mags, Youth Of Today, Gorilla Biscuits and Sick of it All. There are other oldschool bands like 7 seconds and Minor Threat and there are newer bands like Ten Yard Fight, Ensign, Hands Tied, etc.

What are you guys doing beside the band?

We're all just a bunch of silly college kids. Ken studies industrial sciences, Roeland and Raf study law and I'm majoring in English literature. I guess most of our time is invested in the band, school and our (girl)friends. We all like going to the movies as well and Roeland sets up shows once in a while. Besides that we try to go to as many shows as possible ... or just hang out.

What is important in your life, what has value?

On a personal level I've come to realize that a certain degree of peace is needed in life. I try to find this in relationships with other human beings. What I'm trying to say is that I look for that calmth in friendships. I learned that it's impossible to be friends with everyone, so I made the choice to have some really good, close friends. It's really important for me to be around people who I feel comfortable with, there is so much stress and competition in this world and sometimes I just can't take it.

What are your plans for the future? Both the band and your personal life?

As for the band there are two things planned : playing shows and recording. Show-wise we try to play at least once every week and there is a small tour coming up in March with Endstand from Finland, which we'll take us through Germany, Switzerland, etc. At the end of March we're going back to the studio to record 23 (!) songs. 15 of those will be on a full-length release tentatively titled 'crossroads' (to be released later this year on Genet Records). The other tracks will be used for comps and stuff. As for myself, I hope to finally graduate one of these years, but I'm pretty scared about finding a job and stuff. I really wish I can find a job that makes me happy, 'cause I hate it when I see people returning from another day at their lousy job. Fuck that shit!!!

How would you like to see hardcore evolve in the future? What would you like to see that happens?

I'd like to see more fun in the whole HC-community. The last couple of years everything seems to be so serious at shows. I know HC, to a certain degree, is an outlet for frustration and anger, but people should also remember that it is a sub-culture that can't just exist through these negative feelings alone. It's time that all of us put things in perspective and learn to live together in a positive way. But, knowing that that last part might have sounded a bit sappy, I'm not into all those screams for 'blind' unity, 'cause some of us will never like one another, no matter how hard they try.

What aspects of the scene are there that you don't like (and what do you like)?

The scene's main strength these days is the diversity it has to offer. There have never been so many different styles to be found in the HC-scene as right now. I'm not only talking about genres (emo, metal, old school and the lot), there are also the different philosophies behind it all (veganism, straight edge, d.i.y., etc.). But with this strenght also comes a flaw. To me it seems that everybody is more and more occupied with their own thing. It's pretty important for everybody to keep an open mind.

What's the bands most important issue?

It never is/was our goal to preach to the masses. If there is one message we do stand for it is: be true to yourself ... no matter what.

If there was one person that you were able to meet, either dead or alive, who would that person be and why?

I'm not into the whole idol thing, but I'm pretty curious about meeting my late grandfather Leon Tote. He was killed in a car-accident when my mother was 8 and my aunt was 5. Having fought in WW II and being one of the main men behind the socialist union here in Antwerp, he has become a kind of mythical figure to me. Every time my aunt, mother or grandmother talk about him a certain feeling of pride can be felt in the room. I'd like to meet the man for real to know what kind of human being he was.

What question should I have asked but didn't and what would your answer be?

I don't know? Maybe something about the song on the comp, the deeper meaning behind the 'way too cool' song. The lyrics for that song are directed towards the so-called HC-

elite that you can find in every scene. They're usually a bunch of guys (yes, guys) who think they're the only ones who are allowed to have fun at 'their' shows. They know how to dance, they know the moves, I really hate that elitist attitude.

What would you like people to think off when they hear the name 'Thumbs Down'?

People should always remember that they can confront us with comments and questions (I guess this goes for all HC bands). It's better to ask us things in person than starting another gossip-trail that leads to nowhere. Thumbs Down is just a bunch of guys who try to make some fun. If we make mistakes, that's because we're only human.

Is there anything else you'd like to mention?

I'd like to thank you for having us on your comp!!! And to all the readers / listeners : if you like our song, please check out our 'Going For Gold' 7"/med on Genet Records. Email: pyrrhus@club.innet.be. If you want to contact the band our e-mail-address is thumbsdown@ hotmail.com. Peace!!!



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REACHING FORWARD

Ever heard of the 'Donut-crew'? Well, Reaching Forward belongs to it. A crew of fanatic youngsters, who are totally into straight edge. Harm plays bass for Reaching Forward. When you were at the hardcore festival in Boxmeer you could have seen that the guy isn't afraid to speak his mind either. The following interview was done over the phone by lack of time at shows...

Well, first off: How old are you? And how did you get involved with hard core?

I'm 17 years old, turning 18 in a few weeks. How did I get involved? Well. I was a punkrocker, listening to punk and skate-punk etc. bands like Pennywise, Propagandhi. And I bought a Youth of Today record one day. I guess that was two years ago. I knew Shelter and that their singer was in Youth of Today before that, so I bought the album and I bought a Minor Threat album the same day. And so I got in touch with Straight edge. For quite a while I was the only straight edge kid here.

How long does Reaching Forward exist?

For about one and a half year now.

And you started with more new school influences, I mean, when I listen to the demo.

Yeah, kinda, but everybody always said that, especially live, we were always sounding more old school.

But you're not afraid of some metal-influences?

Well, I like the new Reveal record a lot!

What music do you listen to?

I also listen to bands like Deus. Or those 'twee meter sessies' on tv (that's a dutch tv show where they show bands performing nearly unplugged with often other stuff than they normally do-reflections).

You also try to do other stuff besides the band...

Yeah, I did the festival in Boxmeer and some smaller shows as well.

Are you still going to school? What are you planning next?

I do 'HAVO' (highschool) and I'm hopefully graduating this year. After that I'm going to do a cultural/social kind of education. Working with kids with problems, ethnic minority's and all.

Do you recognize those problems in your own neighbourhood?

Well, in our village, all the kids are totally 'gabber'. They're into drugs a lot and all.

How is that at school? I talked with other guys about this as well, do they know about straight edge and all?

They do know that I'm straight edge and whenever they talk about the weekends

and how much they're going to drink they always go like: "Oh that's forbidden in your case! You can't do that!". You know? And I explain them that it's not a matter of 'forbidden' but that it's my own choice. They just don't get it.

Who writes the lyrics? Can you tell me something more about the song "Intentions" that's appearing on the "What we share" compilation?

It's about... There are a lot of bands and people that are talking about 'make a change' and when I see what they besides the hardcore scene; they just have a regular job and all...

And for you is that working with children, or youth in general...

Yes, I want to try and really do something. Try to really make a change. With every choice that I make I try to 'spread' a message. I want to carry it on.

Goes that for vegetarianism as well? Do you try and educate people about it?

Oh well, I'm a vegetarian for two years and every Christmas we had this discussion on the dinner-table so I don't think this year will be any different

(laughter). My mother cooks separately for me, which is pretty cool. They didn't like it at the beginning and they thought it was weird and all, but they get used to it, you know?

They will! (laughter), hey something else: When you hear people talking about 'the good old days' what does that to you? What do you think of it?

Well, I guess it was cool! I mean, when I look at the record covers and pictures... I couldn't tell how it was in Holland for example. I heard about the Manliftingbanner shows...

Well, it never was as big as it is now!

Whenever they say how cool it was back in '88 I always think that I want to try and make it even cooler! (laughter)

I think it is cooler now!

Well, when I got into the whole straight edge thing it was nothing but slow bands and it's just that now that bands are playing faster and more towards that old-school thing. That's great!

What do you think about that 'separation' that does show up sometimes between old school and new school/metal?

In a way, it's a pity. I like metal bands (at least some of them), but when we played in Landgraaf recently, where almost all the bands were metal, the audience just stood there you know? There were quite some people who liked us but they didn't move 'till the first metal band played. That sucks. I mean, when you like a band you should show that!

How would you like to see things evolving in the future?

We should all play together. Respecting eachother, no matter what music people like.

Isn't playing old school kinda limited, compared to metal? It's way more complex...

Whenever you get better... Yeah, within that metal style it's easier to do weird stuff, it's more technical and all. I don't think I want to play old school for another five years. When you get better as a

musician you kinda are limited in this style.

What are the plans for Reaching Forward?

We just want to play as much as we can, then we have your compilation ofcourse and there's going to be a 7" for Commitment records which hopefully comes out around April this year. We'll see what happens. We don't really look really far into the future.



Okay... I heard about it before: It's seems to be that there's an entire crew taking over, I heard about it from the Lifesign guys: The donut crew!

The Donut-crew is the coolest crew from Holland! There's three rules: Fingerpointing, Stagediving and Pile-ons! It was from the festival where we went in Dongen. We were sitting in the van with these dudes from Lifesign and we were talking about donuts, and when Lifesign played they dedicated a song to the Donut crew! It's all fun!

You're all friends!

We're the new youth crew, man!

Ha,ha, okay, on to more serious things: How do you think that your lyrics will develop in the future?

At the beginning it was all about "I will hold on" and stuff like that. More typical straight edge lyrics, but I try to write more deep stuff. Lately I'm trying to

write more 'make a change' kinda lyrics. That's the period I'm in now. I really have this urge to speak out how things should be different.

And what's important in that way? What should change?

Well, it's... I mean, look at the way how people act towards eachother. It's not meant this way! And the same goes with animals. How people treat animals. I can't understand that and it should change!

Can you tell me something more about the TV incident you guys had? You said something on stage about that didn't you?

Yeah, we have this song about false promises. I said something about how these tv-people did that towards us. There was this tv-crew filming at a show and we made agreements with these people that they should only do an interview with our singer and they should film two songs from Reaching Forward for this program. That's what we agreed. Well, they started filming the crowd and doing other interviews as well. And when we said something about it they got pissed! They walked away right after I said something about it.

What happened afterwards?

Well, that particular guy called me up. He apologized to us about the incident. But he couldn't help it really as his boss was coming with him and he told them what to do. So, it kinda got solved and it will be on tv

somewhere in January or February.

What was their purpose in the first place?

The guy I told about, he worked there for school. He knows our singer and about him being straight edge so he wanted to do this little documentary about it. There were some programs on Dutch tv that brought some misunderstandings about straight edge and we had some arguments whether to do it or not, but we did. But we discussed it and we told them many times what they should and shouldn't do! There shouldn't be any misinterpretations!

How do you see straight edge for yourself? How important is it?

I'm pretty serious about it. I will stay it for the rest of my life. It's a foundation from where on I will try to grow. I don't know what will happen in the future but as I see it now: I'm true 'till death!

Hardcore is really important for me right now. I guess I wake up with it and I go to bed with it! I recently started a label. We're going to release the Lifesign demo and after that we're trying to do a Reaching Forward / Lifesign split.
(here we talk a little about doing distro's and all...)

Can you describe why you got involved with hardcore? I mean, why aren't you a 'gabber' while most of the kids your age are?

I don't know. Gabber is just music you know. Hardcore is so much more. There is a whole lot behind it. It's easy to become 'gabber'. When I was just a little boy, say 11 or 12 I noticed that I listened to different music as most of the other kids. Maybe it came from there on.

But is that just the music?

When I got involved with punk, sure, it was about being 'different'.

Do you feel different than other people?

Not anymore. I do feel different at school for example. The way they talk about women or homosexuals. I totally am the opposite. Whenever you say something about that... They laugh about it...

So, that what's behind hardcore, the message and all is important as well. But how do you see that with the music? What's the difference?

To me, the music is the way to express it. Sure, the music is important as well. When I don't like the music, then the

lyrics aren't that appealing as well...

Do you feel that you develop yourself in a certain direction? I mean, political or spiritual or anything?

I looked at religions... I was raised Catholic but I'm not so much into it. I read this Krishna book and there are all good ideas in all religions, but it's not what I'm into right now. Our drummer, Pieter is really into Krishna Consciousness. We're not extreme in anything. We're against homophobic and Hardline stuff mainly...

What do you think about hardline?

What I read about it... It's pretty scary...

Goes for me as well. I respect those who really live according to the 'philosophy' but the way it's presented and all the violence and stuff, that's ridiculous. I mean 'natural order' tattoos... that comes pretty close to 'survival of the fittest' and all that..

Not so much my idea of tolerance.

I don't get it, you know. The way they look back at how things were. Living totally in harmony with nature. That's not realistic.

Yeah, I agree! Most hardliners live in cities and they talk about 'going back to nature', it's not realistic. I read quite a bit about it. When it became popular with Raid, Statement, those bands. I read it and I kinda liked the way they explained stuff, I really think that there's a lot of truth in it. But that natural order idea and homophobia...

That's way too much.

I think that a lot of kids just get into it to show off. "Look at me getting even further!" That idea.

You don't have that? You want to become a vegan in the future?

Maybe I will. I think it's really good to be a vegan. It's just hard now, living at home. Maybe I will in the future.

You're a positive band and I think it kinda shows with you... I don't think you're easily depressed are you?

Ha, ha, no way! I think you should look on the bright side!

Is there anything I should have asked you?

No, ha, ha. I don't think so.

What questions did you expect?

Maybe a bit more about our lyrics.

That's what every band says! (laughter). But I think that lyrics should stand on their own. People should interpretate the lyrics when they read them. How should people see Reaching Forward?

A positive hardcore band! Oh, from the Donut Crew!

Hey, there's one thing that I want you to ask: You and Suzanne are into Krishna, right? Do you have a Christmas tree?

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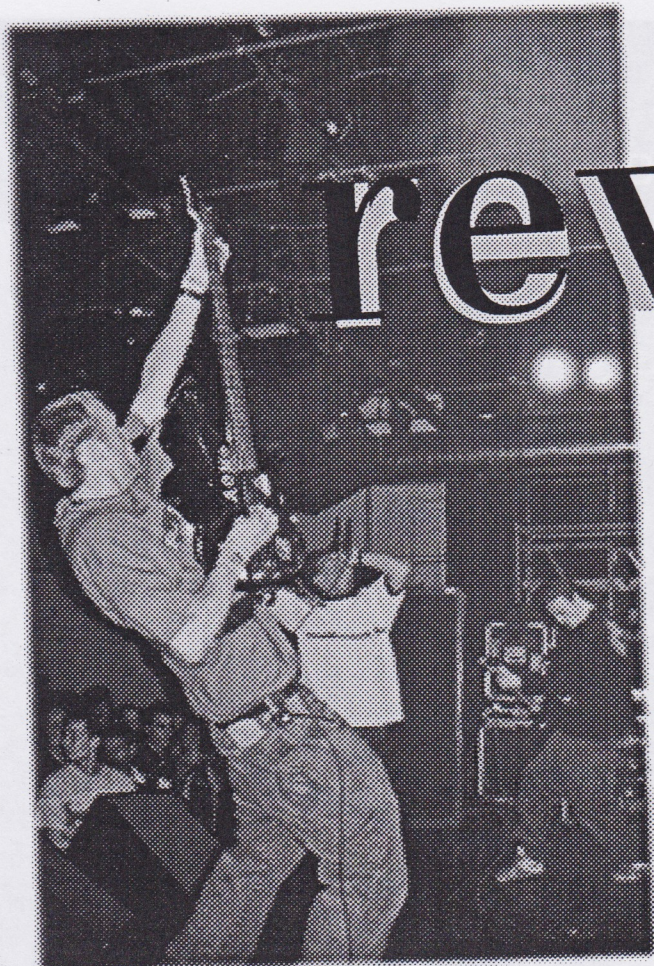
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In a way I find it a necessity to write personal stuff in a zine... Hell, I even started off doing

what's happening?

nothing but writing about myself! And after issue #9, which contains no real columns or whatever, yeah, I think I should search through the depths of myself some more and let it all out. What's keeping me busy lately? Well, as there's so much time spent on hardcore related stuff there's ofcourse all this scene issues that in a way make me happy or piss me off. I'm getting sick and tired of all the gossip and rumors of people who obviously don't know how to release their energy otherwise. Do something with your life or get the fuck out! Hardcore, in my book, is about respect and being open-minded. Nobody has to read 'my' book, but I think there might be some truths there! Oh well, enough negativity. What's making me happy within our little hardcore community? I guess the growth of that world. There's so many new faces showing up and many of them are willing to learn. That really makes me happy. I think it's really cool that there are people who are ten years younger than myself who just happens to have the same kind of interest. On the other hand; I do notice that I'm actually hanging out with people of more my own age. They may or may not have the same interests or beliefs but in a way, it's noticable that age is important... The older the wiser? Yeah, I think so. I notice it with myself. It's just easier to talk with someone who's in his twenties than with someone who's just about to find out about him, or herself. I love to see young people totally belief in straight edge, or totally go for that specific political aspect or whatever. I often take it with a grain of salt to be totally honest. I guess I've seen just one to many that drops out. Which on the other hand doesn't mean I'm not giving anyone the benefit of the doubt! I still believe in people!

Alright, more about myself: When you read this, I'll be 28, Suzanne 25 and I it's about time to get a real life (yeah right, that's a joke, alright!). Suzanne and myself have plans to move to another (bigger) place more central in Holland (Amhem, hometown of hardcore, yeah!!) Not only because we both still don't have a driver's license (beat that on the environmental issue!), but also that we want to broaden our horizons. I'm planning to hopefully work a little less and in that way focus even more on this zine and its related stuff. Where that leads me? I don't know. We'll just see. The both of us are getting along so great together that yeah, we might get married not far from now. How does that sound? I talked about marriage quite a bit lately (not only with Suzanne) and even though I think it's a state-institutionalized thing, I can't help but love to call Suzanne 'my wife' someday! (forget the 'my'-thing here, alright? Our relationship is based on respect!) On now to something else: Krishna Consciousness! Yeah! It's till a huge part of our life! Right now however there's so much going on within the whole organization that we stepped back a bit more (we both never really considered ourselves a part of the whole Krishna movement but still, we were involved). We don't want to get involved with all sorts of politics that are going on in that particular society cause we both think that it leads away from the real purpose: Krishna. The both of us are still trying to live our life according to Prabhupada's books and I can truly say that it's so much of a stable factor in our life now that we won't let go. We might not be the greatest devotees, we don't even consider ourselves to be so, we do have our beliefs and we hold our ground, no matter if it's 'cool' or not in this so called 'hardcore-scene'. Anything else that's worth getting off

my chest? Nah, I'm really happy with my life and I couldn't think of any other way that I would live it. Maybe the age-factor

bothers me. Maybe that's why I'm talking about that so much. Or is that just because of the fact that after two days of hardcore-shows I feel so awfully wrecked? I guess I should ride my mountain-bike a bit more often! Hmm. I actually don't have much left right now. Maybe you should come up to me at a show and see if I have more to say than just these few words....I guess that we'll meet somewhere, somehow! - Johan.

Few issues ago we decided not to get personal with you (the reader) anymore, so we printed our last diary fragments in issue #8. However, lately I feel the urge again to write down my personal thoughts and emotions. How come? Well, everybody (here in Holland and elsewhere) must be noticing that the scene is getting bigger and bigger. A lot of young people are getting involved and even the older ones show their face more often. This is great, 'cause when more people get active, more zines will be created, more shows will be organized and more friends will start a band. This growing scene is the key to our enthusiasm and energy (especially Johan is getting so hyper from all this!). And this issue #10 is the result of that special feeling; an even more interesting, and beautiful issue.

One of the fun parts of being active in some way is that you get to know a lot of people. And sometimes you can have the most weird conversations or discussions. Through these encounters I came to the conclusion that I learned a lot the past year. I have a (more than) 40 hour job and still I am very much active within this hardcore scene. Yeah, I guess a lot has happened this year. Next spring it will be 2 years that I'm with Johan. It all started with me being in France and reading issue #5, the issue in which he wrote about himself coping with the death of his mother. That got me to write him a personal letter. I felt like I knew him already. When we finally met eachother it was like, ehm.. how should I say this? It felt like the end of a period of confusion. I still remember me getting on a three hours train trip going to Vroomshoop. When I saw him sitting on this little brick wall I didn't really need to speak to him in person. I knew he was the one.

And now, I'm sitting in the train, typing with cold fingers on the notebook I got for my work. I'm tired. We just spent our weekend so intensively together. I worked my ass off on the layout of several interviews, the compilation 7" etcetera. I love it when we work together as a team. (That's me sitting sleepy behind the computer and Johan preparing breakfast and making fresh orange juice, ha ha!) Hmm, this reminds me of a song of Rain on the Parade. There's no 'I' in the word 'Team'. And that's what it is. I'm aware of the fact that Johan does so much more for the zine than I do. And frankly sometimes that frustrates me. But then I realize I couldn't do his 'job' as good as he does and the other way around. Don't put him behind the computer, 'cause it won't work either. Anyway, I think I can say I quite happy with how everything in life is evolving. We'll probably move away from Vroomshoop to Amhem in a while. And I'm really looking forward to that. A lot of nice people we met through the hardcore scene live in or nearby that area. Moving we'll give me the opportunity to see them more often. And that alone is something to look forward to. Anyway, this one is especially for all of you who wondered what happened to us personally!- Suzanne.

with the both of us

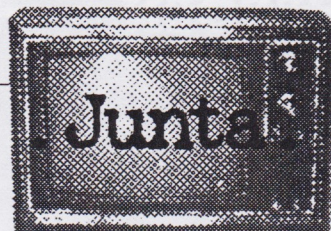
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MAINSTRIKE

Okay, actually I stole the idea from Norm Arenas' Anti-zine. He did a great job interviewing the guys from Snapcase separately. I wanted to do the same thing. And well, let's face it: Mainstrike is in every Dutch zine nowadays so I had to do it a little different. That wasn't however the only reason. The fact that they're all great guys and all so diverse in their personalities, I thought interviewing all the guys personally would be the best way to show that. And as it's fair to say that Mainstrike is Hollands most popular and friendly hardcore combo: I think they deserved it to get this many pages.

- JEROEN -

I remember meeting you for the first time at a Sick of it All show somewhere around their second album, but what's your history?

Jeroen: Well, I just turned 25 but when I got into my teens I got involved with new wave. Bands like Joy Division, Bauhaus, The Cure, Killing Joke, I loved those bands! When I turned 15 I moved to Germany and I got to sit next to this punk-kid... This guy did a fanzine called Speedshit and I got interested, getting tapes and all. It started with all these English bands: Electro Hippies, Ripcord, Heresy that kinda stuff. That must have been in 1989 and 1990. Later on I got in touch with straight edge.

How did that happen?

Jeroen: I knew bands like Youth of Today, Gorilla Biscuits but I didn't know anybody who was straight edge...

But you were?

Jeroen: No. We drank a lot and smoked pot. That was punk.

Did you smoke a lot of pot?

Jeroen: More like, intense... You just smoked a whole bunch at parties and all. Getting really high. You just smoked that stuff pure, with no tobacco and you kinda got back into reality five hours later having watched the same stone for those five hours. But at a particular time there was this party and it was the last time that I drank. It hit me hard and I said that I didn't want to drink for a while, and it took months. I didn't call myself straight edge at that time because I didn't know enough about it but it felt natural. It felt like me. And I stuck with it. And I had this friend at that time who was also into punk and hardcore and I called him, he lived in Germany, and he asked me to visit him and he asked if I drank again. "no, I stopped doing that" I replied and he told me that in that case it wasn't necessary to drop by. End of friendship. That's how I got into it. And I've got to give Youth of Today a lot of credits for it.

The same with me, "Break down the walls" did it.

Jeroen: "We're not in this alone" and "Disengage", those records for me.



And how important is straight edge for you?

Jeroen: To me it's... Straight edge gave me back my self-esteem.

Didn't you have that?

Jeroen: Looking back at it, no. You know, when you're young there are all these different cliques, all these different groups and I took part, but it was 'forced'. Deep in my heart it didn't felt right. And when I totally quit drinking and smoking pot... It gave me back my self-esteem. From there on I could go on and ahead with my life.

Did you know any people that were straight edge at that time?

Jeroen: No, but a couple of months later I met Big and due to him I got totally involved with the straight edge. To me straight edge is like a foundation from where I want to live my life. From there on I want to walk that path.

And what path is that?

Jeroen: In the early days I was really interested in politics, and I still am but I think I think I broadened my horizon. I think that we live in a society that makes

life in itself political. You make choices by supporting different groups and organizations, and when necessary I'll voice my opinion and maybe go out demonstrating. Which doesn't happen that much anymore I have to admit, due to other things that I do.

Don't you have the same thing as me... No matter how busy you are with politics. In principle you won't change a thing. I mean, you vote, but what's the use?

Jeroen: I got that same thing. And I think that you got to change things in your own surroundings first. You've got to start with yourself and that in itself is maybe something more spiritual for myself. Life is political but within yourself it's spiritual. And you've got to work on that as well. At a certain point I got the idea that I wasn't capable of changing things directly. I am also not the type of guy that wants to change things 'by any force'.

No violence?

Jeroen: I do believe that there are certain circumstances where you have to use



violence. I mean apart from violence out of self-defence, I support for example especially what ALF (Animal Liberation Front) is doing in England. I support direct action.

What about nazis? Or forbid those nazi-political-parties?

Jeroen: I don't know if that would solve anything. On the other side...

Violently beating down a pro-nazi parade?

Jeroen: I don't have problems with that. I was involved with AntiFa (Anti-Fascistic organization) in Germany and at that time, it was just after the unification of both East- and West Germany, and especially from East Germany there was quite some interest for the extreme-right. And then you'll recognize that those people haven't any sense for reason. Talking stops there. You can't discuss with people who have hatred against other people etched into their hearts. And it's obvious that those people have no problem at all about using violence towards other, innocent people then you got to do something to stop that. Direct action is that solution.

Would you use that violence yourself?

Jeroen: I'm not someone that's easily to move to use violence. Whenever I should get confronted with someone who commits violence against innocent persons, I would do something. Maybe not totally on my own but with a group or something.

So, you don't consider yourself a pacifist?

Jeroen: No, no way. In principle I try to avoid conflicts.

Does that happen to you?

Jeroen: No I'm too big for that! (laughter) (-that's the truth, Jeroen is huge!- reflections)

Do you reckonize the same thing as I do with politics and getting older? When you're young you're convinced you can change the world. And you have these huge ideals to totally change society...

Jeroen: I think it evolved more to something personal. Like I made the decision that I never ever in my whole life want to have anything to do with the meat-industry. And that I support organizations who are involved with animal rights. That I go out and demonstrate. But I'm not a member of any party.

You never were?

Jeroen: No, I always experienced that I had to give too much from myself because of that party. I can't voice my own opinion but have to voice the parties opinion.

Do you vote?

Jeroen: Yes.

What party did you vote for?

Jeroen: huh... I'm not going to answer that.

Why not?

Jeroen: Well.... That's a personal thing. I think that I would vote for the SP (Socialist Party) at the next elections. I think that's the party that stands most close to the people. It's not a party that doesn't know what's going on and sits high in an ivory tower. The involvement of Jan Marijnissen (the leader of the SP-reflections) attracts me.

Those direct actions at companies and stuff...

Jeroen: Yes, and within the city itself. In Nijmegen where I live they're really active within the different neighbourhoods. And that's what I totally support. In these days people get more and more get alienated from politics. They don't feel involvement at all. So, when you get a party that tries to get those people interested then there's an awareness coming out of that. People get conscious about what they can do and what this society needs.

But you won't be a member of the SP? You just have a 'fear' for organizations in general?

Jeroen: Yes, I know that a lot of people disagree with me but I was for example interested in the IS (International Socialists) but you just could tell that you can't really have your own opinion because the parties vision has to be upfront all the time. To the outside you have to voice the parties opinion.

But isn't that with straight edge a bit like the same?

Jeroen: No, because straight edge is a personal choice for me.

But that's for you... I mean, other people often talk about straight edge as something sectarian. All these kids acting and dressed the same...

Jeroen: I know...

Or let me put it otherwise: Do you feel as being a part of the scene?

Jeroen: A part of me does another part doesn't. I experience lately that I feel more connected with people, not particularly from my own age, but I mean, when you're 25, or towards 30... You just see that there's a new generation that's coming up. And that's cool. It's young blood. And it's an adventure for those people. I feel for myself that I've gone through that.

Reflections: Do you feel "older"?

No, I'm young ha, ha. But, I've gone

through that. It's now more that I'm more personally involved with people. More on a personal level or something.

But you're all older, when I'm talking about Mainstrike... Do you as a band feel like 'outsiders'?

Jeroen: No way. We're still involved at shows and all...

It's more like, feeling 'older' as that new generation. You mentioned that you somehow felt not being a part of the scene...

Jeroen: Yeah, but that's also because of the music, the so-called new school. Bands like that. And the dress-code that comes with it. I don't care about that.

But that's what happened ever since...

There was always some sort of dress-code...

Jeroen: But that doesn't matter to me anymore. People are calling me "The college-boy" lately. I like to dress neatly.

Just like Jonas.

Jeroen: Yeah! Ha, ha But that's just the outside. I might wear a hooded sweater and the other day something nice. I don't care about that anymore.

Could you imagine yourself growing out of the scene?

Jeroen: No way, not at all!

True 'till death?

Jeroen: It's hard to say...

I ask that that to myself. I mean, I'm almost 28 now. Ten years from now... 38... Where would I be?

Jeroen: I don't know, We have some good examples in Holland with the guys from Seein' Red. When I look at Paul and Jos... When I can walk through my thirties like that, I would be really pleased! Hardcore means so much to me and it's such a huge part of my life.

How do you... This is kinda difficult, but could you describe that certain feeling what hardcore is?

Jeroen: It's difficult. There are only a few things in life that really impress me. Things that as a whole 'grab' me. Hardcore does that. Whenever I put on a record that I really like. Bands like Manliftingbanner... It gives me the chills... There's so much honesty coming from it. So pure. You don't find that anywhere else in music. But as you said, it's a feeling, an emotion and it's a passion.

What do you think about the new breed of bands that play the old-school-style again?

Jeroen: When I look at Eyeball... I pretty much can loose myself looking at such a



band. And there are more bands... Recently I saw Degradation in Germany and that show was awesome. The atmosphere in that club was so great! And there are more bands that I really like: Spirit84 for example or Pushed Too Far, 97a, Floorpunch, those bands are brilliant! They manage to play that authentic style. It's authentic, it's nothing new but that doesn't count. It's the emotion, the passion. It's all about the feeling in oldschool.

I think that's what old school is all about. I mean, the lyrics are mainly kinda simple... When you take a look at Culture's lyrics for example, that's a lot 'deeper' But it's a different style... It's all about feeling.

Hey, another thing: You just got your first tattoo. That's something special. Your first one is special.

Jeroen: Yeah, it is.

Did you think a long time about it?

Jeroen: I think that from when I was sixteen, I threatened my parents saying that I wanted a tattoo.

So, you weren't allowed to get one? Ha, ha.

Jeroen: No way! But they said: "Whenever you leave you can do whatever you want."

But then it still took quite some time...

Jeroen: You know... There's all these different things that come and go, and I recognized that it changed. And I always had something like: "Whenever I have the slightest doubt, I'm not gonna do it." But now I got a tattoo from the Ohm-sign. And that attracts me. It's something universal.

But how did you get to that?

Jeroen: Well, I've got quite some books on Krishna consciousness. I'm not a Krishna conscious person. There are aspects that I like. The body-mind-soul thing.

You believe in the existence of the soul?

Jeroen: Yes, absolutely.

You also believe in reincarnation?

Jeroen: That's something, after years, I still don't know. The soul lives on but how it evolves, in a body or something. I don't know.

What about God?

Jeroen: I don't believe in God. I never experienced God so how could I believe in Him? I always had the idea: When I look at this world... There's so much misery... Whenever there is a God why should he accept this?

To me it's... You know: I do believe in God. I tend to see it this way: Every living being is an eternal soul. Everyone is just such a small part of the whole. A



human life is so relative, so small... I mean; someone who dies who you know, that's a shock. An unknown person on the other side of this planet means little to nothing to you. I think that all misery in this world is in the end a product of men's fault, men's doing.

Jeroen: You have a point there. But why should it happen?

I think... It does happen because we have to learn from it. For example: You live the straight edge. I live the straight edge. It's an improvement. A learning experience to become a better person. Everyone, from birth on, has the knowledge about good and evil. Everyone knows that whenever he's doing something wrong, he feels it that way. Just that fact makes me to believe in the existence of God. I think that consciousness is something we all have. And that we don't have that for nothing. Whenever you hit someone, you know that it's wrong. You don't need a lesson about that. You just know it. The same about vegetarianism... There's this story about a baby in a box. When you throw a carrot and a rabbit in that box, the baby will play with the rabbit and eat the carrot. It's natural. I call that

God-consciousness.

Jeroen: You're right on that. My father always says that he could never kill an animal but still he eats meat. And I don't understand that. Like I said... Whenever I look at the future... It depresses me sometimes. But that however doesn't hold me back to strive for improvement.

You think positive.

Jeroen: Yeah sure. I kinda see myself as a little centre. Everyone has this radiation around him that reaches other people. That's what we should know and use. That's all I can do.

- BIG -

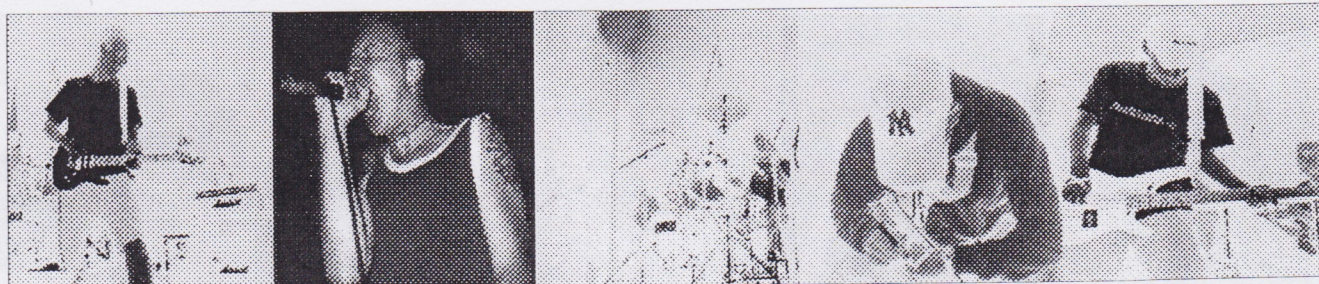
I want to start with a name: Changing Systems? What does it say to you?

Big: Ha, ha, that's my first band. It must have been ten years ago or something. It was a band that I started with friends from this squat called "De Bank".

Did you live there?

Big: No, I just came there and that was for about two years or something when these people started to be against the whole straight edge thing...

How long are you straight now?



Big: For about ten and a half year now. I got in touch with it because I was involved with the punk and skinhead scene at that time. I was a skinhead.

What kind of skinhead scene was that?

Big: Just the 'normal' skinhead thing. But at a certain point there came so much politics with it and that particular skinhead scene came less important and I got fed up with it. All the drinking and being total drunk at the weekends. Well, I got in touch with straight edge and that was a real positive change. And at that time it was the most radical way for me. It felt good.

And you still got that feeling?

Big: It's getting bigger and bigger. You now the point with straight edge is; at the beginning you're real fanatic with the non-smoking and non-drinking thing. And now it's something I'm totally used to. Someone may ask me if I want a beer or something but I just don't care. I don't even know the taste!

But that certain 'drive', will that remain... In two years from now for example?

Big: You know... On stage it isn't all about the straight edge. It's about frustrations that come from inside. From my daily life. That's my drive. It's definitely about more than just straight edge. When you just fight for being straight edge. At a certain point it stops there. Straight edge is something that's a start. You got to do something with the straight edge. It's not the ultimate goal in life. I don't care how people develop their own lives from there on, be it spiritual or political but do something with it.

What's your goal?

Big: To have fun ha, ha. To find and answer about: 'why I am on this planet, What am I doing here?' To know what it all is about.

But you'll never be a 100% certain, no matter what...

Big: No, you'll never be that certain, but I think it's a necessity to strive for it. And try to do something with that.

But what I actually mean about that goal, how would you like to be, or at what point, in say 10 or 15 years?

Big: well, I hope it won't be much different than the present. I can't just let it go. It's so much a part of me...

Do you still feel as much connected with the scene as in the past, are you still all that interested in what's going on and all?

Big: I think it's different now. There's a lot of bands and stuff that just doesn't give

me the same impulse as it was 'back in the days'. The last band that really touched me was 108. There's so many bands... I mean when you still sing about backstabbing or friendship... it's just...

So, all these new and upcoming bands don't mean so much to you?

Big: I got mixed feelings about it. In one way it's really cool and all but lyricwise I can't get any inspiration from it or anything.

To me it's like... (Oh now we're going to show how really old we are, ha,ha...) I think that with all these young kids starting bands and all... I love it! The scene is so much stronger as it was 10 years ago.

Big: But that, at the same time, kinda is the problem. When we became straight edge, you had to fight for it. There were no bands, no zines in Holland and you really had to fight for your beliefs. Nowadays... All these bands just come to Holland and it's real easy to get a hold on the records. The zines are really cool, that's what the kids do themselves. But you don't have to like 'struggle' for it. You can just be straight edge and be comfortable with it.

It's more like a youth-culture now, like the whole 'Gabbler' thing for example?

Big: Yeah, I think it is. You can just consume it. Everything is there for you already. Just step in and grab it.

Sure, and Lost and Found for example had a great deal in that. But when you really want to get that special feeling and have it in your heart... You'll have to search for it.

Big: Yeah, but it's just so much easier to get in touch with it. I was the only straight edge kid back in the days of the squatting and all. It was all mixed then. You went to see real punk bands... It was just totally different..

That unity is totally gone now.

How do you feel about all the people that were straight edge then... And just, not anymore.

Big: In a way... I find it hard to deal in a pleasant way with those people. It depends on the person, sure... I don't know..

Why?

Big: It's mostly about the people who had the biggest mouth. I'm so disappointed in those people and I go just like... I don't know, those people I can't rely on or something. I can however deal with people who aren't straight edge. Manon (Big's girlfriend) isn't straight edge... It's just that I can't really stand people who had

this big mouth and don't put the money where there mouth is. I can't stand that.

I know that you're interested in Krishna Consciousness. In what way does that show in your live?

Big: It kinda fits into my life in my own way. I read Prabhupada's books. But you know, it kinda goes in waves. Sometimes I'm really into it and read a lot and there are times that it's not so much 'there'.

The same goes for me...

Big: But the desire is always there.

That God consciousness is always there... But was it happening when you were younger? How did you get in touch with it... I was talking with Jeroen about this and I told him how I saw it and...

Big: You know, I kinda have a problem with the word 'believe'. It's more what you experience. I find it really hard to put into words. But as you said; when you look around in this world then there has to be a higher power behind it. It hardly can be otherwise. I experience it and it feels good. I can't really define it.

And Manon, your girlfriend?

Big: No. She's not interested or anything.

That kinda surprises me to be honest. Does that never cause any problems? I mean, you're almost 'known' for being straight edge and all, and she isn't.

Big: There's just so much respect between us. It just doesn't matter. It has never ever been a subject for fights or whatever. Never.

That's totally cool!

Big: But that's also because... The way she drinks. It just never gets out of hand. I've never noticed that she behaved differently or anything. She'll never get drunk. Straight edge should never be the reason to choose your friends. In my life I had more in return from people who weren't straight edge than from those who were. There are so many people that are straight edge and they are totally empty minded. And there are a lot of interesting people that just aren't straight edge. It's totally ridiculous to say to people who are straight edge: "You are straight, you're my friend."

You're not out their convincing people about the straight edge?

Big: No. When you're young you're really fanatic about it. When you did this interview with me ten years ago it would probably be the ultimate hard edge! (laughter!)

I remember something now and that's actually pretty funny. In 1989 when we





went to shows it was cool, it was straight edge, to drink milk. To show others you didn't drink booze but that you were healthy and that you drank milk and now so much kids are showing off there "Alpro- addiction" (A famous vegan soya-brand).

Big: You remember the Vla thing?

Yeah, that was totally funny! (Hmm, how to explain that? When you're from the US, ask Civ when you get to meet him. It was an in-crowd thing with dairy-pudding. And it was fun, really!-johan) You can't do that anymore! (laughter!) How do you think about that 'change' or is it 'growth'?

Big: For some people the step from vegetarianism to veganism is the right step. I just think that there are a lot of people who are a little too much focused on the vegan-thing. It shouldn't be a 'cool' thing to do. And that's something I don't like about the scene. It was the same with Manliftingbanner. They had this really political, communist message. An idea that is spread, totally wrapped up, totally there to consume, including the bands, the costumes and just everything. And people just shout some slogans and that's it. But the real consciousness isn't there. The real importancy is lacking with so many

people. I think that the straight edge scene has the most ups and downs.

But you're pretty stable yourself?

Big: Yeah. I think that, especially with Krishna consciousness, that's just slowly getting deeper.

I was wondering... I'm involved with Krishna Consciousness myself for about five years or something and it just goes really slow. It grew on me, just slowly. And I see so many devotees who get in touch and they happen to totally live in the temple a week later... That just doesn't seem right.

Big: That's not the way it should be. My relationship with Krishna... Maybe it should need that hurry. I don't know. But I think... I'm just moderate about it.

You don't feel 'connected' with ISCKON (International Society for Krishna Consciousness)?

Big: No. I read their publications and that's the most 'direct' contact with them.

That's about all. Or maybe there's something that you think is important to be mentioned. What should people know?

Big: I'd like to see more interest from people in the lyrics maybe. Not so much in itself but more how I get to them. How people get to write certain lyrics.

Is it easy for you to write them?

Big: Mostly they just come real easy. And I think that's how it works. Due to circumstances or experiences I can sometimes write real easy and the lyrics just seem to come real quick. I just have all these thoughts running through my head.

Are you still as 'pissed' as you were when you were a little bit younger?

Big: It just gets worse. Ha,ha.

What about your work. You're also at an age that you got to work and all...

Big: The thing is... When you're a temporary worker then you get to know people and when it starts to become interesting you have to leave and you'll get another job and in the end I just don't want to put all that energy in it. I just do my job and that's it. It's often pretty difficult, with lunchbreaks and all... Mostly I don't feel the need to say anything to these people and they don't feel the need to say anything to me either.

You don't feel the need to have a 'steady' thing. Not planning a career?

Big: No... It's okay to be ambitious but I have that with small things. I'm not interested in a career. I'm interested in Mainstrike. That's my career. I'm trying to build on that.

When are you guys quitting?

(laughter) Big: As long as it feels right, I'll go on. I'm by far not finished!!

- PEPIJN -

I know that you're a skater. Is that how you got involved with hardcore?

Pepijn. Yes. Bands like NoFX, bands like that. That got me involved in the first place.

How long are you into skateboarding?

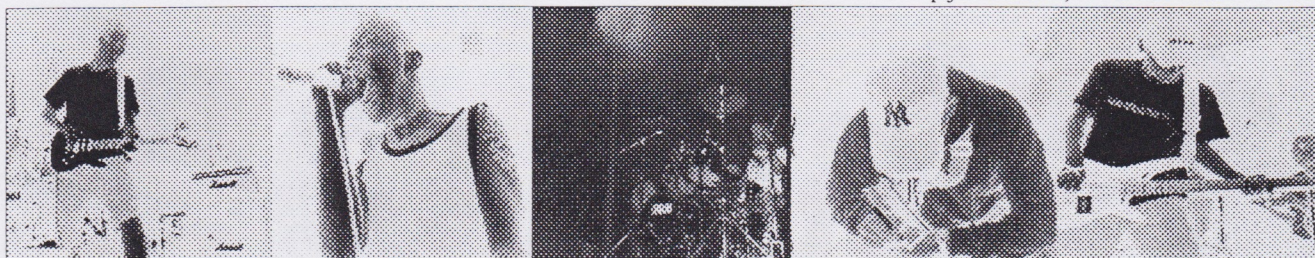
Pepijn: Well, I'm 21 now and I'm skating since I was 12 and I'm fanatic from that day on. I'm getting more fanatic actually.

So it was NoFX and the likes that got you into it, how long ago is that?

Pepijn: I got interested in Gorilla Biscuits, Judge, those bands. More these 'basic' hardcore bands. And I got straight edge because of bands like that. I loved the music and that's how it went...

And when you hear how Big experiences hardcore and straight edge...(It was the three of us: Big, Pepijn and me that were in the same van during this chat-johan) That feeling, do you recognize that? Do you share that feeling? How did it develop in your life and all?

Pepijn: Hmmm, I drank when I was



younger and it just went this way. I gave up drinking and all and so did a lot of my friends. I just feel really comfortable living this way. This is the lifestyle that fits me. I used to drink and all and I got drunk but straight edge just seems to fit with me much better.

Do you preach it? Do you talk about it with others?

It's that... I just don't think that people would understand. Most of the people around where I live are just so different. I could tell them about it or whatever but I think they would just start laughing.

Isn't it sometimes hard to get along with people who are totally different than you are?

Pepijn: Most of the people I hang out with just don't understand or don't even know about me being straight edge. They know I play in a band and that's all. I'm not going to preach about it or anything at school.

What kind of school are you doing?

Pepijn: I'm going to the "MMO". That's a study for retail trade. Being a shop-owner and stuff. I've been to the LMO. And yeah, I'm supposed to do something like that. I'm not sure myself. I'd like to work in a skateboard store or something like that. It's just really hard to get a job at one of the few stores in Holland.

Is that what you're looking for: something with skateboarding?

Pepijn: Well, I'm just keep on doing it in the future. As far as I can see now I'll just go on. I'm really into it and whenever I could get a job that has something to do with skateboarding, yeah sure! That would be great.

I used to be into skateboarding myself a lot and when I look at it... I'm no longer really 'involved' with it or anything, but I think that skateboarding in a way changed for the worse. Do you agree?

Pepijn: In a way I do.

It's like... When you can't do a 360 kickflip (a skateboard trick, a pretty difficult one-johan), you're not considered cool. I think that's so stupid!

Pepijn: Yeah it is. It's changed towards way more technical stuff. The 'old school' style is different although it's kinda mixed lately. I'm not that good myself. I don't skate contest or anything. I enjoy mini-ramp skating in my hometown Hoogeteen.

What kinda board do you ride?

Pepijn: A Platinum (that's a brand -johan)
Oh man, I'm totally out off it! I never heard of that. I was skating when guys like Mike Vallye, Tom Knox and 'The

Bones Brigade' that sort of stuff were popular. I remember having a Tom Knox board with this Minor Threat rip-off artwork on it. That was a straight edge guy!

Pepijn: Oh Tom Knox, he skated for Santa Cruz!

Ed Templeton was one of my heroes as well. I remember seeing him at the World Championships in Germany.

Pepijn: That guy had his own brand of vegetarian shoes: Zero Two.

Yeah, you're right! Those shoes were horrible. They just fell apart! (laughter) But enough about the skateboarding... What is it that you want to achieve in your life? With this whole hardcore thing and all...

Pepijn: I don't know if I really want to achieve anything. It's just a good feeling you know? Being involved with it. Doing things.

Is hardcore, as a political movement important for you?

Pepijn: I'm not so much interested in politics. I don't vote or anything. I just don't know enough about it.

But isn't life in general something political. I personally think that, in a way, everything that you do is a political act. How you treat other people and all...

Pepijn: I think that respect is really important. I try to respect other opinions. Be open minded.

But how far do you take that? I mean, when you talk with someone and during that conversation it shows that that particular person is very much anti foreign people. Do you speak out against that?

Pepijn: Yes I do.

And when that person gets more fanatic at that point, hearing you, having a different opinion... Do you consider violence an option?

Pepijn: I don't know. I don't know if that helps. I can totally understand the aggression that comes with it and against those people. I don't think I would use violence that easy 'cause I don't think it will really change a person.

And what about those right-wing parties? What's more important to you: The freedom of choice or no voice for racists?

Pepijn: I think that everyone has the right to say what he or she wants to, but... it's difficult.

I think that it's difficult as well. It's the same for marihuana... I mean, you're a

straight edge person and against drugs and all, but should those drugs be legal?

Pepijn: When it's illegal it's criminal. It's hard. I think that when someone wants to get that stuff they're going to get it anyway. I don't know...

And if it was up to you to close every last one of those coffee-shops, would you do that?

Pepijn: No, I don't think so...

About violence... Do you think that it's okay to violently stop nazis when they march or show up at hardcore-shows wearing swastikas?

Pepijn: They should know they aren't allowed!

But when they just don't care?

Big: KICK THEIR ASS!!! Pepijn: Yeah, I think that violence is usefull and allowed then.

I think that, especially lately, there's not enough interest in stuff like that. Especially in straight edge. It's all about how straight edge you can be and all... And now with all these 'divisions' call it new school, old school. All these different ideas. There's too much people pointing fingers at eachother not towards society. There's where it's rotten. What do you think?

Pepijn: I don't know, to me it's... I'm not so much into politics so...

But is straight edge a youthculture to you? Like 'gabber' for example?

Pepijn: No! It's more. Absolutely more! The experiences in life can be expressed through hardcore. What you feel is shown in hardcore. Everybody will experience that on a different level ofcourse...

Do you think that hardcore changed you? That it kinda molded you or something? Made you think different about certain subjects?

Pepijn: No, not really. It's not like I was a totally different person or anything.

And do you feel like being a part of the scene?

Pepijn: Oh yeah, for sure! This is where I feel at home.

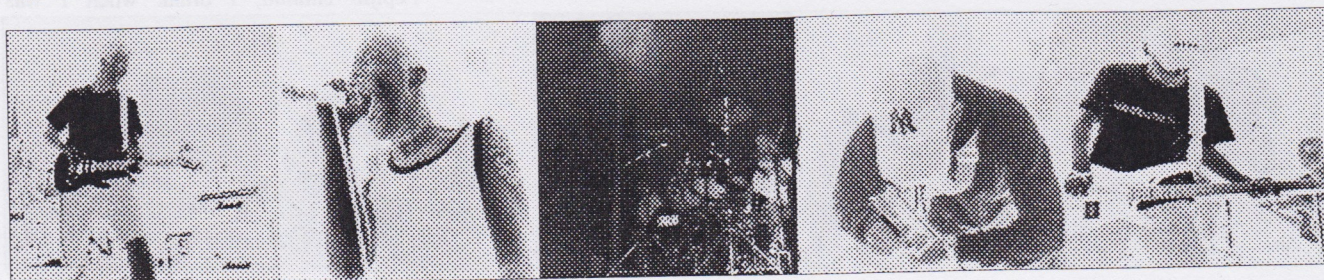
Anything that people should know about Pepijn?

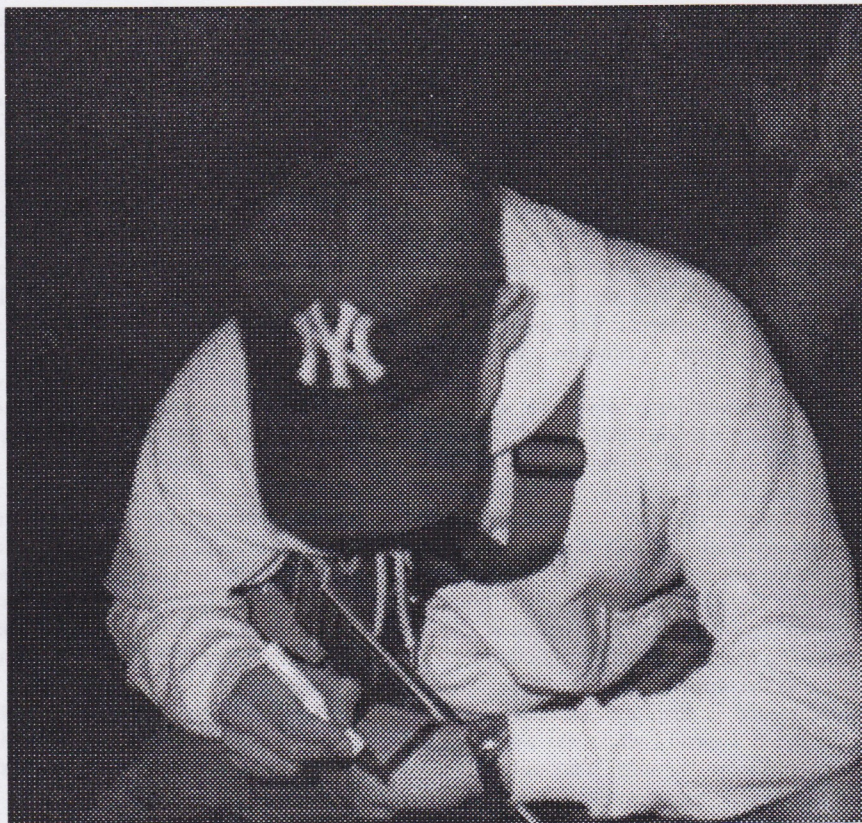
Big: He doesn't like vegetables!!! (laughter)

That's hard! You're a vegetarian?

Pepijn: Yeah, I'm vegetarian. Not too extremes or whatever...

You know... When I talked to the other guys from Mainstrike and I mentioned that I wanted to talk with all of you they all kinda 'warned' me for you. You were silent and quiet. So, it's cool that





you still talk with me and all. You're just not the person that feels the need to speak out, are you?

Pepijn: No, I'm kinda to myself. I'm not shy or anything. I guess I like to keep things to myself.

- JONAS -

To start things off: How old are you?

Jonas: I'm 26. No wait! It's 27!

That's my age as well! Alright, how did you get involved with hardcore?

Jonas: Let's see. From around 16 I was really into New Wave, bands like Talking Heads, The Cure and then I got to hear the Sex Pistols. Someone taped it for me and I heard it and that was what I was looking for! I bought my first guitar around that time, I guess it was \$30 or something, and I got into hardcore from there on. From punk towards hardcore. I heard Gorilla Biscuit's album and it was more modern and well, I just loved it and I wanted to play that! I got 7 seconds's "The crew", Youth of Today's "Break down the walls". I found out about straight edge that time as well. I was a student back then and the drinking, even a bit of smoking, it kinda was a part of it. It was that 'punk-romance'

in a way... Puking and all.

Were you really into that 'dirty' punkrock-scene at that time?

Jonas: Oh, I was never that deep involved. I hung around in Arnhem at that time and we had this 'project', it wasn't even a band, but we wanted it to be as dirty as possible, we wanted to be the worst band in Arnhem. There was a punk-scene, a real punkscene, and we just wanted to upset some people. Waving Shell-coupons, asking if we could pay with it and all (okay, 'back in the day', Shell was like THE wrong company, they had their involvement in South Africa's apartheid regime, and it was one of the biggest issues in punkrock those days-johan).

Did that also work that way with straight edge? Being the opposite of what punks were about?

Jonas: Well, in Arnhem it was all mixed up, punks and straight edge people. We were just standing next to eachother. The funny thing is, when I really got straight edge myself, my parents were really freaking out about it! They thought that I was involved with some sort of cult or sect...

But to most parents it's cool that their kids don't drink and stuff.

Jonas: That's what I thought! But to my

parents it's really normal to drink. And to them it was more like: Now Jonas wants to reject us even more.

Did you get in trouble with your parents for that?

Jonas: Problems... Well, my father never was that bothered. My mother on the other hand... She and her family are more on the conservative side. Voting VVD (rightwing party-johan) and all. And I got along with that for quite some time, 'till about 16 and then the Sex Pistols came and I was looking for something for myself you know? I mean my mother loved that I was playing hockey and all...

Yeah, to me it's like...Hmm, how to say this... You're like one of the 'neat' guys in the band...

Jonas: Maybe that's a part of how I was raised. I kinda like that. In one way I reject where I come from and within the scene it's something 'not done' and I like to mix that up a bit, to play with it.

How do you see that? The 'real' world and the hardcore scene. How relative it is... I mean, as far as I know: your girlfriend isn't into hardcore at all, is she?

Jonas: No she isn't. And actually today we had this little argument. This is one of those weekend that's totally dedicated to hardcore... So she doesn't really like that. We don't see eachother this whole weekend. She finds it hard to really understand that.

It's hard for other people to understand. Could you describe that 'hardcore feeling'? It's a question I ask most people.

Jonas: To me it's just really important.

Why?

Jonas: Like I said, when I was 16, I was looking something for myself. I remember an interview with Rudeboy, singer from The Urban Dance Squad (a pretty famous rap/rock/crossover band from Holland-johan) and he said something like: "Everyone has a certain sound or song or whatever that is that person. That belongs to that person. And that happened with me with the Sex Pistols. That raw energetic music.

But how does it come that you went to that more 'clean-cut' straight edge / hardcore style instead of that typical punkrock music? Has that something to do with how you were raised?

Jonas: Well, my parents really like a glass or two...

So, it was something against your parents?



Jonas: Nah, not that much but I'm 27 now so I don't really feel the need to be the opposite of my parents just for the sake of it.

No, ofcourse, but that's like with most older straight edge kids. You're not the type of person that shouts around how bad beer is, and tries to convince others and all?

Jonas: No, I have some really good friends who drink and all that. And we still go to bars, it's just that I have an orange juice instead of beer. When I got into punkrock and all, it was totally about letting people know about me. It couldn't be weird enough. So, sure it was about rejecting society. And now, straight edge is like a next step. It's even more rejecting. Straight edge attracts to me in a way... When I take for example Youth of Today's Break down the Walls; there was some pretty rough, hard and fast music on it. But the lyrics were almost 'hippy-like'. It was about peace, brotherhood, unity. Doing things together, with eachother. I loved that. And within punk it was kinda... It lead towards being anti-social. And straight edge... You can totally be into it and still there's no need to be an anti-social person. Being punk and still be positive. That's pretty important to me.

So how do you think about bands nowadays who aren't so positive anymore?

Jonas: To me... Straight edge is something positive. With those negative bands and being straight edge... I can't really take that seriously.

Is straight edge a starting point for you? A solid base from where you work on deeper into other things? Like maybe politics or spirituality?

Jonas: ... (silence)... Yeah, in a way it is. You know, I'm kinda like a little.. I tend to look on the dark side. I'm not so optimistic by nature. Kinda negative, mostly small things. "oh that goes wrong" that kinda thing. So with straight edge it was like something new. Looking freshly at things. Mostly small things though.

Doomly thinking like in 'depressive'? Do you look that way at the future? With jobs or anything?

Jonas: No, not that much.

What would you like to do for a living?

Jonas: I studied communication, television-related, and I'd like to do some thing in that direction. More theoretically. I'm busy on that, it's hard though. There's quite some pushing around and all. Ass-kissing maybe... That's not my strongest

point! And the best chance to get a job in that direction is at commercial stations and profit is such a big part of it. I know people who work there for almost nothing and they get kicked out easily, those things... I do have a problem with that. On the other hand, with this study that I did, I guess I'm going to do something in that direction. In what way, I couldn't tell yet.

Do you notice a big difference between your student-life and the 'real' thing? The working society... The point is; I got quite some problems with it myself...

Jonas: I worked for a while. So, in that way I kinda like the 'real world' I was ready for it as well. I studied for seven years and it was enough. I want to be independent. I like that, it's a feeling of control as well. I didn't have so much problems putting it in with the whole hardcore thing and all. I think it's quite easy to keep it apart. You notice it... I mean Big has the same thing. He wants to work in the direction that he chose. The consequence is that the band-thing gets interrupted. I mean, when you work you can't really go on tour. You only have such a limited time for vacation and I've got a girlfriend where I want to spend my holidays with so it's kinda hard. It's important to spend some time together when you're having a relationship as well, so... It's not getting weaker or anything. The hardcore straight edge thing you know? It does get harder however, especially when you're getting older. It does get harder to make people understand what your interests are, what your lifestyle is. My parents think I'm too old for this stuff anyway. They really just want me to get a job and all. The band does take a lot of energy. And I arrange a lot of stuff around the band. But now I have to arrange stuff cause we're going to live together and I've got to find a job... It does take a lot of energy. So, it sometimes is hard to explain to others why there's so much going into the band and the music. People like to see me put energy in other stuff... I however consider hardcore and straight edge... The band... It's really important to me. I couldn't let go right now.

How do you see that in ten years? Or maybe five years?

Jonas: I think that no matter in how many years that I want to continue playing in a band.

Do you want to become a real good guitarist?

Jonas: Oh, sometimes. But I think that everyone should do what he or she is good at.

I can imagine that, whenever you play an instrument, that you want to become real good at it. Like Steve Vai...

Jonas: I want to be good. But that's just where I'm good at. I want to become good at playing hardcore. It's a total different feel. You can be really good. But when you don't have that certain feeling you will never get those three chords the way it's supposed to be. That smoothness.

Is that maybe the reason for hardcore musicians to play other styles? Like metal. That they feel limited in just palying those three chords?

Jonas: No, it's not for me. You can always polish your style and get better at what you're doing. Make it more fluently. I just know a few tricks and I try them to be really good. I've been to some guitar-teacher but that's just not my style. Maybe in a few years. There's still so much to do with Mainstrike.

On to something else now: What is important in your life? Or let me put it otherwise; what would you do if you just had one week, or a month to live?

Jonas: Pfff... In the first place I would meet up with everyone that's important to me. Family and friends.

Is family important for you?

Jonas: Yes. Or at least the Dutch side of the family. The Swedish side not so much. My father is Swedish. But I'm really close with my Dutch family. The Swedish side was never close or anything. Two summers ago I went to Sweden with my girlfriend and we visited almost all of my family, except for my granddad cause he's too far up north, but it was really nice. It was good to see them again.

Does that have anything to do with how you were raised as well? I mean, it could very well be that you have nothing in common with family at all...

Jonas: Well, the family 'bond' has always been really close. My mother is from a really big family. Her father and mother lived in the Dutch East Indies. She, with her brother and sisters, they were with seven children and they had a rough childhood. My granddad, her father was a KNIL-soldier and he was a real difficult man who didn't really care about his children. Only in a negative way. A lot of punishment. And I think that the children came really close that way. It happened with a lot of people who lived there. Adriaan van Dis (a Dutch writer-johan)



who's parents also lived there, wrote a book about it called "Indian Garden" and it was exactly like my family. I think that it brought my family closer together.

And that's what they gave you along...

Jonas: Yes, they did. It was always that way. I saw my aunts every weekend. And it still is that way. When I visit my mom there's always family visiting her.

Your dad lives somewhere else?

Jonas: Yeah, he does.

So, your parents are divorced?

Jonas: Yes.

Was that hard for you?

Jonas: No, because they divorced in 1973 so I was about three years old and I never really noticed it. For me it was just the way it was. No problems or anything.

So, that you're now in a hardcore band can't be the cause of that? That you got to get rid of those frustrations?

Jonas: (laughter) No. They get along pretty well. They didn't really tell everything... I think that my mom thinks: "He's my son..." She has some problems with talking about it. Not that she doesn't want to. I mean there didn't really happen bad stuff or what but she still got that "He's my little kid". She got married pretty fast, which has to do with her father as well. She got pregnant and well, they got married too soon... They were really young. So after a few years they found out that even though they loved each other, it didn't work out living together. They were just too different. They were both pretty self-opionated...

(laughter) Are you?

Jonas: People say that. (laughter). But that's something that other people say. I couldn't tell!

In what way?

Jonas: If it was for how I was raised; I would've gone studying and going all the way into some 'high-placed' job...

Your family is pretty much right-wing conservative?

Jonas: Yeah, they are.

Sorry for saying but in a way is that noticable in you. The way you talk, behave maybe. You're pretty neat. Not snobbish, but in a way...

Jonas: I've been there when I was really young (laughter)

So that's still there a bit...

Jonas: That's how I was raised. And I don't really regret it. Sure, it was pretty much rightwing but it wasn't bad or anything. My family thought me to look for yourself, check your own opinion. Not to look what others say or do. I hope that it



worked out a bit. My father was a bit more leftish but my mother couldn't imagine how I turned out. My dad saw me play and my mom has all my records!

That's cool!

Jonas: I think that they very well know that I am certain enough to choose for myself. I guess that way in the back of their heads they think it's a passing phase (laughter) When you're getting older it gets easier to get along with parents. You're treating each other more like equals. It's a good thing.

I know that you're having a relationship. For a long time already? Any plans to get married?

Jonas: For about four and a half years now. We're supposed to get living together soon. Marriage is still a big step. I'd like to get married though.

Isn't it, I mean, hey, me and Suzanne

talked about it, and I like it but still... I think marriage... It's a state-institution, something like that. On the other hand...

Jonas: Well, my girlfriend thinks that way. But I think. I like it. Maybe I'm so much into romance and all. I just like it. It's just the last step. To say: "you're the one for me" And to make that sort of 'official'. We haven't anything planned yet or something. The only thing is... My girlfriend wants to have children and I do as well but man, it's so far away yet and I think with children... It just happens. And when that happens, yeah, I surely want to marry my girlfriend. Whenever there are kids there should be a marriage!

Oh me too! I think that with children... They just should have a mom and dad that are married.

Jonas: Yeah; and maybe it is a society-



thing and maybe it's not hardcore, whatever that may be, I like it. Children is such a big step, marriage should come with that! We definitely chose for eachother. We've been in the same students-house and we know eachother for a real long time now. For six years or something. We were real far apart back than... Wow, this is getting real personal!... We were really different. I was like this rookie and she had a boyfriend back then and I... Well I hardly ever kissed a girl. But in the end... We've beated around the bush for a long time... But in the end, well we got together and it's a real good thing. I'm really happy with her!

Okay, to finish things off: Is there anything people should know about Jonas?

Jonas: Pffff. Nah, I guess I've gone deep enough... It was cool though.

- JOHNNY -

Okay, first of all how did you get into hardcore?

Johnny: Well, I was into punkrock and I had this friend who had a t-shirt from S.O.D. and back then I thought that hardcore was like this thing within metal, I liked it even though. D.R.I. and those kind of bands. At a certain time I just bought the cd's where guys were on with short hair! That was a good indication mostly (laughter) I got Insted, Agnostic Front, Crumbsuckers... Bands like that. Then I bought all the cd's from the bands that were on the thanklist from Insted. One of the coolest things was when I heard that somewhere in Scheveningen (which happens to be pretty far from where Johnny comes from!-johan) they sold Gorilla Biscuits' Start Today and got that and I was totally addicted to that style!

Is that also how you got into straight edge?

Johnny: That was some time after that. I drank quite a bit back then. I never really liked it actually. I never really liked the taste of beer and even though it was fun getting drunk at the beginning, I kinda grew out of it. Sure, lyrics helped with that. Uniform Choice's song "No Thanks" made some statements! I guess I'm straight edge for about four years now. I've listened to the bigger bands for a pretty long period. I guess that I'm into hardcore for about eight years or something. I'm pretty much into the new youthcrew bands. I try to follow that a bit.

But I definitely like Earth Crisis and Congress as well! I really like old metal, Iron Maiden but also maybe the some of the bigger new metal bands, Dimmu Borgir and Cradle of Filth. I've seen Cradle of Filth and I like 'em.

Alright. I've got to ask this: Everybody says that you're a complete lunatic! How come?

Johnny: At shows and all I just get real enthusiastic and I don't know. I was at a NoFX show once and nobody moved and all but I was feeling like... I want to stagedive! And I just go off! I just get totally dragged into the music, I don't know.

What attracts you so much in the whole youthcrew thing?

Johnny: First of all: I love the music! Second: The image is just so cool. I mean even the clothes. Not that they're important or anything but it does plays it part. I love those crew-pictures!! I do listen to all sorts of music but I don't know, this attracts me the most.

But old-school has it's limits... Mostly it's not deeply political or anything.

Johnny: It doesn't have to be. I think that politics are pretty important but that doesn't mean that every band has to be about that. Ten Yard Fight are all about having fun. But yesterday when I was talking with their guitarplayer for a while, it turned out that he's a pretty smart, even intellectual person. He just wants to have fun with his band.

I thought they were, I don't know, they were a bit boring I think. And they didn't have anything to say at all.

Johnny: Well, yeah, maybe. But I was talking with their guitarplayer and he's also really into art and he does art-college as well, so...

I know that you're also into art and that you're studying arts and all. Isn't that a contradiction with the whole straight edge thing? I mean, most artists aren't afraid for one kind of drug or another! (laughter)

Johnny: I guess I'm the only straight edge kid in school. People smoke pot and drink in class and all.

In class???

Johnny: Yeah, we got more like these little workshops for every artist in this huge hall and you can do whatever you want there. Then everyday a teacher comes by and you talk about your work and how you're developing. There are quite some people where I can't get along with so well. But that's mainly because of their attitude, not

so much that they're doing drugs or anything. I was at another school before and that was even worse.

What kind of arts are you studying?

Johnny: Autonomie art. More the stuff that's supposed to be in museums. I like to work with collage, two-dimensal stuff. Not so much with paint but cut-out pics and all.

What subjects are you into?

Johnny: Things that I don't like. I like to be critical in my art but in a way that people still enjoy looking at it. They should in fact be invited by the art. It shouldn't be that people don't want to see it. At our school it's pretty important that there's something 'behind' the piece of art that you make. But then again, that can be something really personal..

But you want to spread a message with your art?

Johnny: Oh yeah! That's important to me. Giving a statement. It doesn't have to be that way with everything that I make but when people see, let's say, ten pieces of art from me, then they should get a message.

How do you feel... In a way I often get the feeling that a lot of artists seem to think that they're 'above' the usual, or 'normal' people...

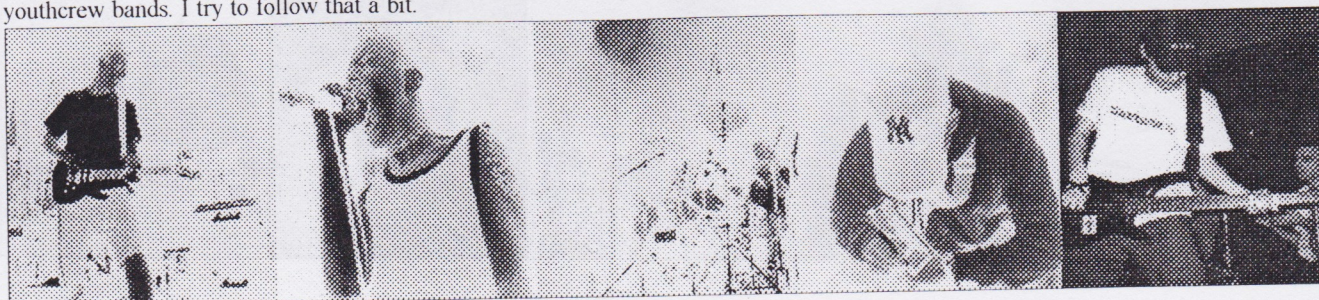
Johnny: You're right. A lot of artists have that. Especially at my school, a lot of people have that attitude. My goal, in a way, is to... You know, within' the world of art it's pretty easy to do your thing. Make stuff, and in that little world people will like it. But then you see... they created that small world and they kinda loose track on society. It's a protective world and nobody cares about their art outside their own little world. What I want to do is, try and get my art to the guy in the street. I put stuff in the streets. At the moment I'm working on a comicbook. That's also a way to reach other people outside the art-world.

I think that... An artist doesn't have to make concessions or anything...

Johnny: I would never do that. But at the same time, I'm searching for ways to reach more people. A style that people like and that I like myself. I'm really into cartoon-like stuff and doing stuff with images. At school it doesn't matter what you do. As long as it has a certain quality.

What is good and what is bad in art?

Johnny: It's hard sometimes. You can discuss that with the teachers but there is art that is nothing but bad, or ugly. No matter what. There's a lot at school from people that's just really bad. There's a difference between what's good or



beautiful.

Do you think that craftsmanship is important?

Johnny: No, not really. I'm not that good myself but I have plenty ideas... I think that a certain amount of fantasy is important but you also should show it.

You like to be heard?

Johnny: Yeah, sure. Making a record with the band, playing. That's important and a way to get heard.

Is that your personality?

Johnny: It's different. When I'm with people that I'm familiar with I'm pretty outspoken but when I'm with people I don't know that well... I had to work for school once and I didn't like it there and I guess I didn't speak much! But I like to be heard. When I make a flyer or a poster that I put up in town and I see people looking at it, or even ripping it apart, tearing it off the wall. That's what I like.

Getting a reaction.

Johnny: Yeah. I often draw pretty provoking things. Provoking humor. Kamagurka is pretty cool. Not being afraid to do some pretty extreme things. I think that within humor everything can be done. Even jokes about coloured people, sexist things... As long as it's a joke!

Can you mix up the 'hardcore' Johnny and 'the artist' Johnny?

Johnny: You know, at school, a lot of these people think that an artist who plays in a band... He should be doing something experimental, something weird. And they want me to play at school with the band... They think it's something 'art' as well. Hardcore is totally different. I mean, Mainstrike isn't really experimental or anything. It's all about the energy!

How would you describe hardcore?

Johnny: It's something really important. I get more fun out of hardcore than something else. I couldn't do without the art but not without the music either!

What if Mainstrike got really popular and one of the 'big' labels offers you a deal?

Johnny: Well, Crucial Response is our label. We know Peter and all, so...

If you had the opportunity to live off it...

Johnny: Whatever I hear from those few bands that are able to do that... It's not that easy. I mean when I hear from Earth Crisis who tour nine months in a row; I couldn't do that. I'd rather live off my art. But I think we just should try and grow with the band. Mainstrike has been popular from the beginning so it was never really

with this whole 'old school' trend or whatever...

How did you get into the band?

Johnny: I was in this band "Surefire" which was more 'emo-style' and I knew Jeroen from shows and all. They were looking for a bass-player and I was really happy he asked me. Mainstrike was one of my favourite bands at that time...

Are you all good friends?

Johnny: Yeah, I think we are. I don't really see them besides practice and shows but we always have a good time. I also have friends who have nothing to do with hardcore at all. We sometimes go to disco's or whatever.

Hmmm.. (sarcastic..) I heard you're also into Boney M and Abba?

Johnny: Yes!

Seriously, or is that all a joke?

Johnny: Well, I've got cd's from those bands... There was a time when I just bought straight edge records but there's too much stuff I don't really listen too. Now I search for other music as well. I buy some metal and old disco. Or The Birds and The Beatles but I also try to stay in touch with some dance-music and all. But it's too diverse in a way. But I have some different stuff, even gabber. But lately it's mainly the new youth crew bands... I love Atari, Floorpunch, Hands Tied.

What do you think of that 'macho-attitude' that some of those bands have? Like Floorpunch have that image.

Johnny: I personally like that style from bands like Insted or Youth of Today more. That real positive message. Energetic, but having fun as well! Changing the world but having fun! That's what I'm missing with a whole bunch of those vegan-metal bands. There seem to be a total lack of fun. Totally serious.

And what about veganism?

Johnny: I'm a strict vegetarian and I mostly eat vegan as my room-mates are all vegan. I mostly eat vegan and whenever I eat something not strictly vegan, it's okay with me. I'm not too hyped about it.

How important is straight edge?

Johnny: I couldn't think of a better life-style to replace it. I sometimes think about it. When you're not into the music anymore... But I see it separate now. I never got really happy when I drank. It scares me that when you take something and it changes you. When I was young I couldn't care about anything. When I went to HAVO (highschool) I just went there to fuck things up. Slowly I matured a bit. It's

even hard to admit but I see it in myself. I recognize that I'm getting older. I don't really like it but it happens. Getting more serious. And I know that it's good but I don't know, that whole responsibility... At the age I am now... There are certain responsibilities that people expect you to have. Man, when I worked that year for school... They expected me to get there at a certain time every morning... I just couldn't do that!

Is that a lack of self-discipline?

Johnny: Yes it is. Whenever I had to get up and I didn't feel like it... I just couldn't do that! I just feel like lying down sometimes ha, ha!

Could you imagine yourself having a regular job?

Johnny: No, right now... That would mean my life was ruined! Whenever I couldn't make a living with art I'd loved to have a video-store or something like that.

You're into movies?

Johnny: Well, I do see a tape every now and then! Ha, ha!

What are you into?

Johnny: I love gangster-movies. "Goodfellas" the "Godfather" series, mostly violent stuff... I saw "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre" lately and that even 'scared' me in a way. It's so real. I had the feeling I was watching a documentary.

Are you fascinated with the 'dark side' of people? Serial killers and stuff?

Johnny: No, not that much! Ha, ha I like the movies. At school we have this subject about 'hate' that people have towards society and the movie "Taxi-driver" was like the starting-point. I guess that's my favourite movie. "Johnny, the homicidal maniac", the cartoon, is a very 'over-the-top' version of my own feelings. I do have feelings about people that really irritate me. He goes out to kill and torture people. My feelings aren't that strong but... I'm interesting when people just 'flip'. That they reach that 'breaking point'. I'm interested in that. And "Taxi-driver" is just great.

But you get irritated by people as well?

Johnny: It's mostly... I have a certain negative image when I meet people for the first time. I need to know people before I really 'accept' people... I don't get mad at people really often. I can't really remember being angry at people.

Ever got in a fight?

Johnny: When I was 16 or something it was like a hobby from us. Me and my friends... But I was never really the guy that fought myself. I was pretty good as



'bait'. Causing trouble so the others had a reason to fight! Ha,ha I wasn't that strong but I had a big mouth! That was just a short period! I was young man! That was the period when you go out to 'score' chicks, but I'm no good at that either so...

You're involved with someone?

Johnny: No. But I'm... I don't know. I'd like to have a girlfriend. I'm not really 'searching' or something but whenever I meet a nice girl... I'd like that! I don't meet that much really nice girls though. I guess I've been really in love only for about four times. But that never worked out. I guess I'm not that good at it!

Oh, that was the same with me! I never really 'searched' for a girl or anything. Suzanne just came into my life and she never left. Ha, ha. No seriously I love her so much!

Johnny: It would be cool to have a girlfriend!

Hey, are you living on your own?

Johnny: Yeah, but every weekend I go to my parents. I like seeing my parents. I'm pretty close with one side of the family. You know, my grandad and grandma live along the way where my parents live and I see them every weekend as well and they're the coolest people! I love it when my granddad talks about his past and about

early days. It's cool to read about those days but hearing it out of first hand is just super cool! When I was still living at my parents, I went out playing billiards with my grandpa real often. I thought it was sad... My grandpa was always a gardener and when he got too old he had to quit doing that. It's a pity he can't do it anymore. It's sad to see that when I visit him he's just there in front of the TV but not really watching you know? He even can't play billiards anymore...

How old is your granddad?

Johnny: He's 90 now. He still lives on his own and he still works a bit but in the evening he gets bored. It's so cool to hear about how he played the mouth-organ with friends and the girls were dancing to their music and all...

So you don't got your musicianship from a stranger!

Johnny: Well, I'm not that much of a musician! I'm not really good or anything. I keep getting better a little bit every time but hey, I'm not that good!

What would you like that people know about you? Most might just consider you crazy but hey, you showed me another side as well!

Johnny: Well, I like to have fun every now and then and people might get pissed at me

sometimes for making a joke about veganism or anything! Don't take it too seriously! I love to stirr things up a little. People should be able to take a step back from what they're doing. It get's too serious and in the end they get disappointed because they figure out that they can't really change the world with veganism or straight edge. And then they disappear. I got into hardcore because of the enthusiasm and energy. The fun-part is really important as well! I should be able to make a joke every now and then. About people... They can do it with me as well! They might think I'm just a stupid old-school fanatic but I read books ha,ha! I'm not playing computer-games all day, even though I like them! I just love doing different stuff!!

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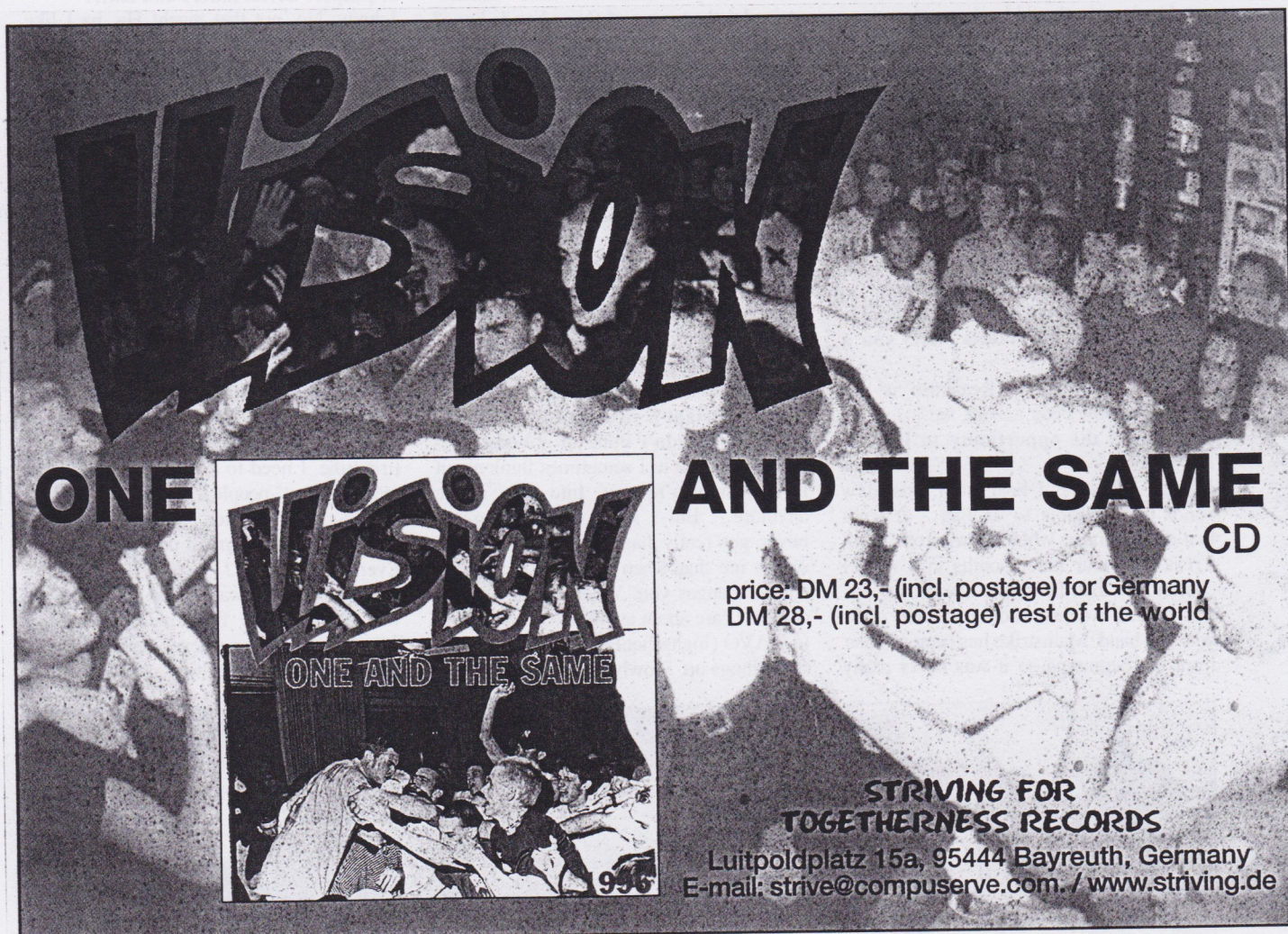
Johnny: Yeah, there's so many cool things to do and to experience!

Alright, what's in that tube you're carrying with you?

Johnny: That's a Bold poster, I traded it for an Unbroken sweater.

Now that fits the interview! A Bold poster to finsih things up. That's cool!

Johnny: Yeah! Thanks for the interview.



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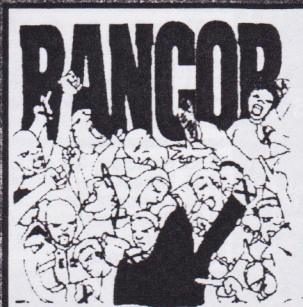
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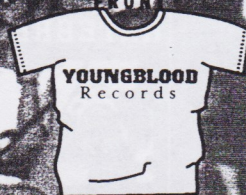
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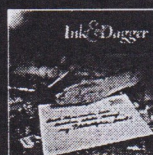
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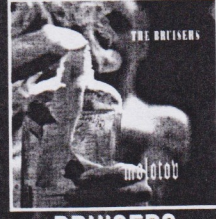


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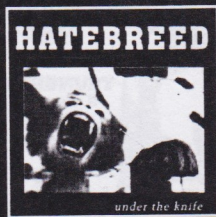
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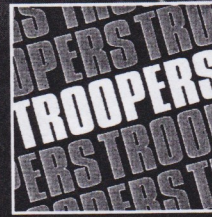


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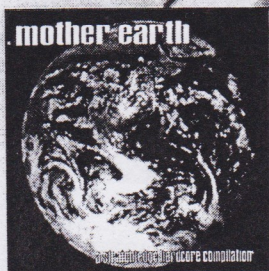
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THE X-MEN

THERE IS NO EXCUSE!



We can't do anything about it... With the growth of the hardcore scene comes an enormous amount of releases. Where does this stop? As we promised to review everything that's sent to our mail-box, we can't help but have this many pages. And in fact we don't care about that either. It's great to write about music and it's great to see so many diverse records coming out. So, for those who care, we won't stop doing this and we'll keep that promise: anything will be reviewed... Everything is reviewed by Johan.



Breeding Demons #1. 15 full-size pages. Copied. Darren, 12 Belmont Close, Wickford, Essex, SS12 OHR. UK

To be honest: you don't see zines like this a lot anymore. Totally cut and pasted. And probably written on a typewriter. It's charming but in a way I feel that it takes a little more to make a good fanzine. This actually looks like it's done in just a few hours. There's chats with Knuckledust, Stamping Ground, Lockdown and Straightdown and therefor totally focused on (his own) UK scene and that's positive. It's okay for a start but it can certainly use improvement.

De Harde Kern #4. 63 half-size pages. Copied. Raadhuisplein 3c. 4501 BG Oostburg, Holland.

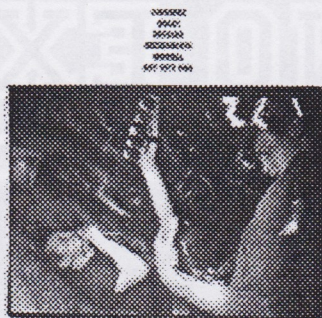
The fourth and best issue from these young dudes who write in their native language. So, when you don't understand Dutch you probably can't dig this. Oh well, there's interviews with Reveal, Instinct, Lifecycle, Stampin Ground and Catharsis (here it would probably be better to publish in English, this guy has a lot to say and it probably would turn out better when it was exactly how he said it). Good reviews where it's obvious that these guys love it the metal way. They're pretty honest and even though I don't always agree with what they say, a good zine. Why is it that inside the zine it says that the zine is f 3,- and on the cover it's f 4,-? That's kinda expensive I think. Oh, sorry but why having a drinking place sponsoring you?

Dogprint #10. 92 full-size printed pages. PO Box 84. Suffern NY 10901. USA

Best zine for this issue? Lenny got away from the newsprint-style and bursts out with his best issue by far!! Lenny has a complete different favorite hardcore style than this editor, but the way he publishes it is amazing. The lay-out is so improved, even Second Nature might be start freaking out! This one has Charles Bronson, The VSS, Locust, Gravity records, Braid, columns, a LOT of reviews and great pictures from mainly Lenny's style bands (which mostly means 'emo/grind/powerviolence-related'). There's a split seven inch included with some of the most extreme bands I heard in a while. Inept and Feci del Signore. If we manage to come close to this guy I'm really happy. Hey, another challenge! Without a doubt. Get it!

Het lelijke eendje #1. 21 full-size pages. Copied. Lieve (how can anyone not like a zine when the editors name means lovely...) Zwaanhofweg 3, 8900 leper Belgium)

A great zine. Totally handwritten with thoughts, columns and interviews with D.S.A and Joost from Congress and Liar. It's the writings that impressed me the most. Lieve isn't bothered by anyone or anything but just writes what she feels and experienced in her life. You can notice that she is still pretty young and maybe that's what so nice about it. She's openminded



and that shows. Really recommended reading, it's something else for sure! I guess we might have the latest copies!

Het lelijke eendje/The ugly Duckling #2. 40 full-size pages. Address: see above

Just before closing time on the review-section here's the second issue from that lovely girl from Belgium. And boy, did she improve! There's so much more to read in here and she still managed to keep that individuality that made her zine so much different than all the others. Still, totally handwritten. No photo's but just great done. I love the article she wrote on abortion. She may be young but she figured that issue quite well out and I agree with her for 100%. There's chats with Catharsis, Spineless and Damien from Culture. A zine I really recommend you to get! Oh, we got some of her #1 and it's free (just send some stamps!)

Hardblood #2. 32 full-size copied pages. Jan Lah, molenakkers 15, 2310 Rijkvorsel, Belgium)

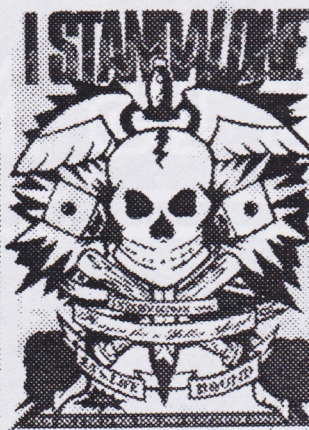
Two young gus who managed to put quite a cool zine together! This one contains interviews with Driftnet and Lifeblood among with a scene-report from The Philippenes, satanism (not really that greatly written, it was kinda confusing... but that's okay as these guys are kinda young). I really like the effort and the interviews are pretty good as well. Oh, there's some reviews as well and maybe the fact that these kids like old-school is enough to make me promote this zine.

Initial Records Mailorder catalog, '97/'98. 48 pages, PO Box 17131, Louisville, Kentucky, 40217 USA

I guess that normally I won't write reviews about a catalog but Andy asked me to and hey, it's a good thing to let you know about these things so I guess I might even do more of this in the future (so send your catalogs in!). This is apart from the cool lay-out, packed with stuff from their own label and from other (mostly bigger) labels as well. What stands out are all the funny and joke things. It's just a really funny read. The prices are normal and they don't charge more as anyone else. I don't know how fast they deliver (well, for Europe, I'm gonna find out. They carry some goods I like!) Send \$2 to the above mentioned address to receive this catalog and see how it works to get an Initial box! (that's a funny feature!)

I stand Alone #8. 32 full size pages. Newsprint. (X Adele X, PO box 321, Buckner KY. 40010. USA)

Although it's the eight issue it's the first one that I read and that sucks. Why? Because this is one of the better zines to come from the US. Adele got in touch with us (Okay, maybe this bores you but to me, this shows what hardcore is all about!), well, she got in touch with us as she's the roommate from Rob Pennington (where we did an interview with for issue #9). We sent our zine there, she read it and contacted us. And now we trade zines. So, we got this one to sell as well. It



contains interviews with Trial (really good!), Disciple (a Christian band, I like seeing coverage from all parts of the scene), Torn apart and By the Grace of God. A good column from Adele (which I found something from myself in as well, me and Suzanne both living in the eastern part of Holland where just 'farmers' live... yeah right!). Get it!

I stand Alone #9. 48 full-size copied pages. Address: see above.

And pretty fast, there's issue #9! This one contains interviews with Rick Healy (25talife, Comin'Correct and a whole bunch of projects beside that, which is great!), EMS, Ferret Records, Bound, Prayer for a fallen angel and Stretcharm strong. Besides that, there's also columns and some personal stuff, which is great to read. I love the way Adele is just doing 'her' thing and slowly but surely improves with every issue. That's the way to go!

Knuffelpunk #4. 20 half size pages, copied. Marcel Etten, Kievitstraat 31, 1761 XA Anna Paulowna, Holland

This is a cute little fanzine done by four people. And although they don't really pretend to have a certain goal with the zine other than just fun, I can't understand why you don't do more than just these few pages. But okay, that's their choice ofcourse. There's interviews with Human Alert and Atari Teenage Riot. I don't like the empty slogans from the last band and I certainly don't like their music, but it's okay to cover a band like that as well. These guys and girls obvious choose this 'punk' way to do their publication. A nice read, just so short...

Knuffelpunk #5. Properties see above, address see above.

Not so much different than the issue above. There's interviews with Azisiz (independent outlet store and singer from nra) and The hellacopters. A funny few pages but not enough to make this a top of the notch fanzine. I like it but it's not my cup of tea so much. Maybe too easily done and put together. Maybe that isn't so bad and is it just me... who cares

Knuffelpunk #6. Properties see above, address see above.

Well, I've got to admit. They're fast. There's The Dropkick Murphy's in here and some usual stuff as reviews and funny things. Not so much changed actually. It's cool that it's the 6th issue already but there ain't much approval here. Maybe they should work on that. At least I think that they have to do something otherwise this gets a bit boring. Oh well, not that I didn't enjoy reading this.

Monkey#4. 92(!) full-sized pages, digital copied. Vlasstraat 12b, 9712 KT Groningen, Holland
Where do I start here? Well, it took quite long to come

song (as I read the words that follows...) Do your homework! Overall the editor writes some pretty good reviews (hmm, thanks!) and even though it's his 2nd issue, he kinda found a 'style'. That's cool! This zine is a definite must read. It's only f2,-/Dm2 and absolutely worth that little money. Go get this one!

Forecast #1. 38 full size pages, copied. Keizer Karelstr. 44 9120 Melsele, Belgium

There's interviews with Facedown, All out war, Serene and a pretty good one with Morning Again in this first issue from Forecast zine. It has a real metal-feel over it and it's easy to put it all under the famous H8000

some stamps (or a dollar from elsewhere) to get this beauty.

War on Illusion #3. 42 full-size pages, printed. Full colour front. (305 Schermerhorn str. Brooklyn, NY 11217 USA)

If you want to check out the best looking cover and the biggest pictures (and darn professional ones!) than check out Paramananda's latest effort! Besides playing in a pop-band Porcell isn't forgotten his hardcore roots. This issue has chats with Downset, Vraja Kishora Das (108) which is really interesting, Texas is the Reason

Sense of guilt

out. Sander (the editor) must have gotten sick of me bothering him about it. Well, here it finally is! One of the best zine I've read in a long time! This has everything: great interviews (one of the best with Earth Crisis ever!), awesome columns, personal writings and even a poem that made me shiver (check page 44!). This zine is so great and even though a lot of people may have given up on Sander... With one big bang he proves 'em all wrong! What a document! (oh, there's chats with Mainstrike, Earth Crisis, Catweazle, Spazz, Slugfest and Disrespect as well as a great One Day Closer tour-report from that little monkey(?) Bas. There's politics, there's humor...) I only felt that the anti-Christian column is a bit too much. Why care for the believe of people who are in no way a threat at all, Mark? Oh well, get this! By all means (and yeah!!! We've got the limited edition one!!! And yeah, we'll get married one day!) Cheers man!

More than just music #7. 44 full-size pages, copied. Felix Heiduk, Duisburgerstr. 2a 10707 Berlin, Germany

Felix just keeps on going. Slowly he found his own style, both writing-wise and lay-out-wise. To me it's always nice to find Felix latest issue. This one contains interviews with Mine, Lebensreform, Nyari along with columns, letters and reviews and hey, there's always Felix personal thoughts. It's a nice read and Felix just keeps improving slowly and if it was up to me he just keeps doing that. I enjoyed this!

Only a phase#2. 48 half-size copied pages. Karsten, Rehmannstrasse 10, D-52134 Herzogenrath, Germany

One of the best looking half-size zines I ever saw! Real professional done like it was a full-sized! That's a big two thumbs up! In Karsten second issue there's interviews with Catharsis (pretty good!), Born from pain, Pale and Reveal. All really well done and the editor just makes up some good conversations. One thing that I noticed. The guys from Reveal are talking about Inside Out's "No spiritual surrender" as an anti-God song and that it was stupid from 108 to play it live as they were Krishnas... Well, the song is written by VIC, also known as Vraja Kishora Das from 108 and Inside out! And it's definitely a song that stands for 'pro' spirituality... So Reveal, you may quit playing that

banner. Something I shall not. Although this isn't that bad, it can certainly improve. There's way too much 'white' and open places in this zine. It could easily be 20 pages when all the space was used and the fonts were a little smaller. Cool is that this guy Tim is against the death-penalty. The arguments may not all be that great but at least he got an opinion. I didn't like the windmill column from Jan (I mean, common' there's so much arguing about something so unimportant. Is it really like a necessity to windmill? Give me a break! Let's grow up!) Oh, I love the part that Tim wrote about his grandmother. You rule! Could use quite some improvements (Kinda expensive as well! Suzanne paid Bfr.70 from a distro, but still...). Cool to see young (? I think...) people active.

Sense of Guilt #1. 52 full-size pages, copied. (Tomas Jernberg, Eketragatan 6F 41873 Goteborg, Sweden)

I've rarely seen such a zine from a guy who's only 15 years old. There's so much to read in here! He got some good interviews done as well, man, this guy is only 15 and asks some pretty good and deep questions! He chats with Shades Apart, Earth Crisis, Prevention (really good!), Turmoil, and a bunch more. Also 'just' unknown people which is pretty cool. It was great to read the story about his girlfriend and how much in love he is (he kinda overwhelms himself in the end with too many words, nice!). He put the whole thing together in just one month but that doesn't show as it's a pretty long read. The lay-out could be better, just as his English, (he promises that in his last words) and I hope he will, as that means there will be a new zine from him! Recommended!

Twentyland Straight Edge Newsletter #1. 4 full-size pages. Jan Coert Toerse, Kosterkamp 33, 7683 VW Den Ham, Holland

As you might know, Jan Coert is our friend. But that doesn't get in the way by writing this review. This is an essential publication for all SxE kids from Holland. Loads and loads of information, addresses and the most well-thought article on Straight Edge I've ever read. This kid is open-minded, educated and he knows what he wants. This is pretty old by the time you read this but I think there will be a new issue on the way. Oh last, but not least, this thing is for free!!! (just send

(Norm Arenas is always an interesting read) along with columns about the scene and Krishna Consciousness. Could have a bit more text I think but when you look at this (glued!) magazine you'll agree that it's done really nice! I liked reading it, but I expected a bit more. I'm really curious what Porcell is going to do in future days! And not to forget the rest of Shelter/Better than a thousand. I guess the story continues.

Abhinanda-Abhinanda lp. 11 songs (Genet records)

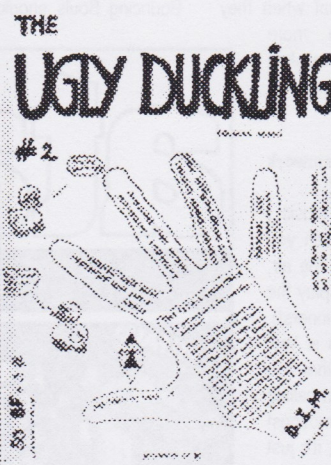
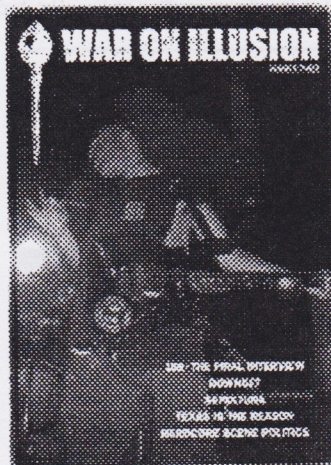
The second release from one of the first bands that came from the North. Too bad that the interest for these bands is kinda gone. I don't think that it's 'fair' either. With this record Abhinanda proves again to be one of the best European Straight Edge bands. Intelligent lyrics (I love "Monster" which is against the stupid attitude of many Satanist/Black metal fans). I would love to see them live again soon! (Now that I think of it, they must be the first Swedish band that I saw and was blown away by... Goudvishal, Arnhem, that was the place... Having memories like this rocks!).

Abhinanda-Senseless lp. 10 songs (Genet records)

A re-release of their first and awesome album on brown plastic. I know this record from start to finish and it's cool that it's out on vinyl now. "Fallen", "Serenade"... Man, those are all classics! An essential record in the rise of Straight edge in '94/'95. If you don't have it already. Get it now.

Acme...to reduce the choir to one soloist cd. 9 songs (Edison records)

This one is pretty old and a lot of you shall probably know this for a long time already. I was never to much into this style but when I gave this a good listen after a long time since I heard this band I have to admit. They were totally ahead of their time. I can't really tell when the seven inches where this is taken from were released but they really set some standards and maybe were even underrated of what they did. Heavy, extreme and aggressive hardcore with a screeching voice that still can compare with a whole lot of todays famous ones. An album that represents one of Belgiums best bands.



Appeal to reason-Slave to our own creation demo 5 songs (Maurice Balke, Im Lintes 24. 52355 Duren, Germany)

The first thing when I played this demo that grabbed my attention were the vocals. Not so much the aggression. But they are really hard and upfront in the productions which kinda is annoying. Well, Appeal to Reason plays new schoolish hardcore with quite some metal influences. Although the booklet and artwork looks pretty good, and that the lyrics are cool as well, this kinda lacks something. Maybe that the music is a bit too simple for this style. I think that when they played 'old-school' they could be more impressive. It is aggressive, that's for sure! Just as the enthusiasm that these guys have. And that's important as well!

Atari-We'll be fighting 7" 6 songs (Teamwork records)

Maybe that you still don't know what music I love the most. I guess most do but when you don't... Get this 7". Point your finger in the air, be ready for your highest jump ever and play the song "upfront" (or any of all the six winners!). Now you know what it feels like!!! This is 'my' hardcore! Music from the heart, music that has energy and music that is real! How about calling this 'emocore'? at least for this guy's emotions! GO!!! (get your hands on their demo, it's just as great!)

Bad Brains-Omega Sessions mcd. 5 songs (Victory records)

I don't really think that this is the most essential record that came out this year but hey, it was the first one I played when I got it in the mail with some others. I like the Bad Brains. Not for the fact that they were so influential or anything. Just their originality. I guess that the song "I against I" could be in my top 25 of all times. I like this and I love the little remark that Victory placed on the back of this album reminding Raybeez. Cool album, I love it Jah.

B.F.I -All bets are off cd. 14 songs (Kingfisher records)

Alright, explanation time! B.F.I is the same as Backfire! and Kingfisher records is in fact Century Media (they seem to have a separate hardcore division now). And first off I have to give some sort of a statement here: It seems that bigger labels like this one don't understand anything anymore! How the hell can I give a good review when there's no lyrics included?!! I hate that. It's okay to make the promos cheaper with no jewel cases and all but I don't need pieces of plastic with no information except for a band history! Okay, everyone should know what Backfire sound like. I read somewhere that this is the best thing they've done and yeah, they are good at what they doing. It's just that I don't like this music at all. When you're into tough hardcore you may give this a listen cause that's what it is to me.

Beta Minus Mechanic-Disassembly required cd. 10 songs (Crisis records / Sonic Rendezvous)

You like female vocals? You like intellectual and political lyrics? You like 'poppy' and alternative hardcore? Then you're gonna love this! Really, really good musicianship and beautiful vocals (not unlike the vocalist from The Gathering) made this a real surprise for me. The first song 1981 hits you hard especially lyric-wise as it's an attack against the US-system, accusing their government: "Our government is responsible for worldwide crimes against humanity so we must open our eyes". This song is however the most political one as most of the others are merely about relationships and the like. I could easily compare this band with Ashes but I don't. This is way better, really!

Bouncing Souls-The bouncing souls cd. 15 songs (Epitaph records)

Almost together for nine years, this band call themselves "the most touring band in punkrock". Well, that could be... I heard their name before. They play fast, clear punkrock that's not as smooth as all those typical East coast bands but have more roughness and I dare to say, enthusiasm in their music. Some skatunes every now and then. Quite happy music, pretty fast at times too! I kinda like this! I mean, when bands like Pennywise are popular I can't understand why The Bouncing Souls shouldn't. I like the song "Serenity"



'cause it's dedicated to their squat. That's punkrock!

Boy Sets Fire-The day the sun went out cd. 11 songs. (Initial records)

Although I read about this band a lot of times this is actually the first thing I heard about them. And they proved me wrong. I mean, I totally expected emo-like poppy stuff and this isn't! Or, maybe it is, but it's not the whining emo and it's way not as poppy as I thought! The lyrics touch different political and social topics over driving, alternative (post) hardcore. The booklet got to be mentioned as it's really, really well done. Every song has a page (some even two pages!) and the pictures fits the songs. This band really has something to say and they show that. A great surprise! I guess their music has to grow on you and I'm gonna make sure that happens to me. I'll play this more in the future!

Breakaway-demo. 4 songs (Breakaway, Erkenvag, Iyrv, 7, 54241 Mariestad)

When I looked at the cover I expected some terrible stuff to be honest. I mean, that skeleton is just plain ugly! On the inside they have this really cool drawn picture from themselves... Why not use that? It's way better. Oh well, the music is pretty good. It's old stylisch with a lot of energy. The soundquality may not be that good it's good enough to hear four cool songs from a band who, when they keep progressing, deserve more than just a demo.

Brother's Keeper-Self-Fulfilling Prophecy mcd (and 7"). 6 songs. (Trustkill records / Cartel)

Brother's Keeper is actually one of the few new-school bands that I really like. Maybe it's because of the typical voice from Michael Lastowski. I guess you love that or hate that. His voice kinda is like Rob Pennington's at harder songs. The music is in the early Snapcase vein and has also that typical guitar-structures. Self reflecting lyrics that fit the music. For those who like early snapcase and not so much the

real heavy riffing, this is a good record from a sympathetic band. Now that I think of it: I guess that their positivity and overall attitude affects me. I can't help but like this a lot!

Build to last-Built to last mcd. 6 songs (Ressurrection records)

Although the cover is nothing but ugly, or maybe I don't understand the pin-up, the music is good old hardcore. That's when you like bands such as Madball or Agnostic Front with a little more melodies thrown in. Not hyperfast but moderate well-played street-core with lyrics about pride, honesty and backstabbing. Not that special but when it's done like Build to Last it's enjoyable to me.

Cause for Alarm-Birth after birth mcd. 6 songs (Victory records / Sonic rendezvous)

How couldn't I like this? There's a famous Krishna picture on the cover referring to reincarnation. Cause for Alarm has gone more punk. That's what's got my attention first. I love the way Keith Burkhardt is still active in hardcore (and his spiritual life that influences his lyrics). There's more variety in these new songs than on the last one and Cause for alarm should get more attention for what they're doing! If I told you that Tony Scaglione plays drums with 'em (from Slayer), does that help? Well, no matter what everyone says; I like this band a lot!! And I love the song "Rite of passage" the most.

Cinema Beer Nuts-Compilation cd. 19 bands and songs (Hopeless records)

What the... Beer? In this zine? Hmmm. Okay, there are quite some bands on this cd that I'm happy to hear at least once. You read about those all the time in the 'punk' rock zines and it's cool to hear them. I'm talking about bands like Lunachicks, Nobodys, MxPx etc. I still don't know what that has to do with beer nuts but maybe I'm the fool, who knows? Oh well. You decide

Carpe Diem-Pie of difference Demo. 5 songs (Uranus recordings) (Tapsa Lepisto, Hillervontie 4a-16, 28370 Pori, Finland)

Weird cover art but nicely done. Finland seems to be one of those countries that slowly but surely builds their own beautiful scene. Carpe Diem is one of the latest things I heard from Finland. They play an original mix of old and especially new style hardcore that's quite original. Maybe because the soundquality is pretty decent for a demo, but this got my attention long enough to say that you should try to get this. It's worth listening. I couldn't tell you what to compare this band with and that's a compliment in itself I think!

Coalesce-Give them rope cd. 11 songs (Edison records)

Brutal. That's the word that should fits best. And 'Overwhelming'. I was overwhelmed by the brutality and intensity that this band throws around. And on top of that: They sound like nothing else. I can't compare 'em with any other band! I couldn't really read the lyrics along but even without those lyrics does Coalesce have enough power to grab you by the throat to never let go again. Overwhelming... And that's an understatement. Beautiful package and a rope that's just short enough to get hanged by. Like that is even necessary... At least hear this for once! It doesn't get more intense.

Converge / Coalesce-split 7". 2 songs (Edsion recordings)

Beautiful package and brutal bands. Maybe that Converge 'beats' Coalesce on this record as I think

that their vocalist is meanier and more aggressive. I also just like their song a little more. On the other hand: I don't know what this will lead us to in the future. I can't think of stuff more brutal and more aggressive right now! I'm looking forward to hear more violent things! Great record for those who are into this stuff.

Converge-Petitioning the empty sky cd. 11 songs (Equal Vision records)

Beautifully packed comes the first full-length from this band from Boston. How to describe this? It's diverse and it's emotional as nothing else. I sometimes even wonder if this still is hardcore. It's so personal lyricwise and purely based on emotions be it fear, pain, anger... everything you can possibly feel except for happiness is on this album. Excellent musicianship where you can't say they play metal or old-school... They do it all and created something completely original. I wonder how these guys are on stage. I'd love to see this storm coming over me. Really impressive!

Countdowns-Right on sound cd. 11 songs (Epitaph records)

What to do with this? I never heard from this band, and to be honest... I could do without them. This band plays like 'dirty' rock 'n roll. Not unlike New Bomb Turks, just more rock 'n roll and less punk. I'm sure that this ain't bad or anything, it's just that I'm not into this music at all. No lyrics, just pictures from women's lips. Not for me.

Countervail-Countervail mcd. 5 songs (Words of War / Cartel)

I couldn't really tell if this band is vegan but from my prejudice points of few they surely sound like that! Metallic new-school straight edge with strong guitar-riffs and a good (but typical) vocalist. This band is from the US and I guess you can hear that as it's well produced and well played. At least not all the songs sound the same. Even though I'm not so much into this kind of music, I really well can dig Countervail!

Defend-demo 1997. 5 songs (Jani asp ritoharjuntie 6F5 40270 Palokka, Finland)

Too bad that this demo has such a bad sound-quality. It kinda gets in the way of the music. Defend plays kinda 'simple' new school hardcore. Really not that bad at all but not so much what I like. The singer is pretty good and has an original voice. It's cool to see they have this anti-rape song. I like that.

Despair / Spawn-Split 7". 4 songs (March Trough records / Cartel)

Despair surely wouldn't disappoint anyone with these two songs. I personally was never so much a fan of them but I can understand why so many people like them. They're aggressive, driving and pure hardcore. Spawn's sound is by way not as good as Despair's that's kinda a bummer. I honestly never really liked them that much but these songs aren't bad actually. I guess that mainly due to the more aggressive vocals from Despair that I like their side better. A cool 'goodbye' record for both bands, that's for sure.

Devoid of Faith-Slow motion enslavement 7". 6 songs (Coalition records)

Old times revisited again! Devoid of faith, (I don't know how I get to this, but I have this feeling/thoughts that this band exists for quite a while, maybe I'm totally wrong I don't know) plays that same trash/noise that SSD and the likes did in their early period. This is 1982/1983 style. Devoid of faith covers "nothing done" from SSD by the way, which is cool but when you cover SSD, there are cooler songs to pick... I like this, but that could very well just be me and other old kids. "All people have the same valid and worth. Everyone's

life has an importance." I couldn't agree more. Beautiful package by the way!

Disrespect-Meriadān 7". 2 songs (Lifeforce records / Cartel)

For a moment I thought I had a new Slayer record in my hands. I mean, the artwork could've just as well been from a metalband like Slayer (hmm, the devil does shows his ugly face quite often on hardcore records...) Disrespect has taken their metallic deathcore even further than on their debut mcd. The songs, who both take about 6 minutes each, are slow, super heavy and left quite an impression on me. Maybe because it are just two songs that I like this (I mean, I'm almost famous for not being too much of a metal-fan...). I noticed a lot of improvement and that helps as well. Good record for those who like slow and heavy stuff. Good vocalist by the way!

Dragbody/Burial Ground- split 7". 2 songs (Fist held high records / Rhetoric records)

Slow, slow and extreme. That's Dragbody. Cold and pulverizing. I can't come up with anything else than the words that are used in the song "word to bleed". You got to read it to believe it. This is torture! Burial Ground is more like metal? I don't know, there's some metallic/slayeresc riffs and all. Really brutal to say the least. I like Dragbody more though.

Drop Dead-Drop Dead, euro press. lp. 32songs (if I'm right...). (Coalition records)

I remember about ten years (could be more) that I listened to Napalm Death's first album "Scum" and that I was totally overwhelmed by it's brutality, chaos, clear lyrics and just the whole 'anti-music' thing. Nothing like that was done before... I loved it! And I love Drop Dead as well (I still keep mixing up Siege (who's first demo is entitled "drop dead") and this band. This ain't typical grindcore because the vocals are more trash-like but still. Clear, could I say 'generic', lyrics and a 'Fuck music' attitude. Just like the label. I can still dig this every once in a while. And whenever a band writes lyrics like: "Nazi-atrocities genocide-never again. Nazi's must be stopped before they rise again. Germany-skinhead hitler youth-never again" they have a fan with this person! Simple, brutal and direct. Great band!

Dwarves-The dwarves are young and goodlooking cd. 11 songs (Epitaph records)

What do people expect from me? I mean, this cd has a cover from a masked, naked woman holding a skateboard. Should that be funny? Sarcastic? I couldn't tell you. Songs about sex and jokes. The music is simple rock'n roll punk. I don't like this at all and honestly, I don't think that many of you readers will.

Eighteen days- demo. 4 songs (18 days)

Krishna core seems to have lost its attraction and that's a pity. This devotees-band makes melodic and aggressive hardcore with good clear vocals with rap-influences. Not unlike Downset, but more melodic. I wish I knew more about this band.

Endeavor-Constructive Semantics cd. 14 songs (Trustkill records / Cartel)

After their good debut Endeavor strikes again and much harder! They managed to improve a lot on this album both musicwise and lyricwise. They are not afraid to take a stance and show intelligence and heartfelt thoughts. Musicwise they've become much more energetic and I even hear some good old-school riffing. Sure, there's a little metal in their music but it's fast enough to not bore me. People who are into Slugfest or Despair should really take a listen. This is even better! The more I play it the more I like it! Great band and they should come over to tour here!

Endstand-Endstand mcd. 6 songs (Impressions records)

After the awesome "intolerance" 7" I expected something really outstanding from Finland's Endstand. And yes, this mcd is good but not quite what I expected. After their great show in Ieper last year and that earlier mentioned 7" I figured that Endstand would hold on to their 'old-style' influences a little more. On this mcd there however isn't that great positive spirit as before.

All that doesn't however mean that this is a bad record! No way! Out of Finland, Endstand is definitely the best band! They're great guys and they know how to play! Check out the lyrics for more positivity than this review! Really good, I just expected a little more.

Enemy soil / Reversal of man-split 7". 5 songs (Fist held high records / Rhetoric records)

More extreme stuff from Fist held high. Screaming grindcore like vocals from Reversal of man with loads of reverences to B.A. Baracus (Sander Monkey, do you know this band? you'll love this!!!). Standing for the working class. Political and powerful!! I like Enemy Soil a bit more. It's more extreme (like Lärm but more brutal) and with a logo like they have you can't be more 'grind'. Also a political band which I think is pretty cool.

Ensign-Direction of things to come cd. 13 songs (Indecision records)

Wow! This is the deal! 13 great, energetic songs from a band I thought had given up! After their good but not outstanding debut they presented the 'Fall from grace' 7" and now they give us their best thing to date. Great old-school hardcore with plenty sing-a-longs and loads of positivity. Finally Indecision are back with a winner! I heard they're coming to tour Europe this spring and even challenge some people here for a soccermatch! I guess that's gonna be a good laugh because we all know that Americans can't play that game ha, ha! This is one of the best records to come out in 1997 so I guess that's good enough for now! You should just get this beauty!

Execute-Time between the fanfare 7". 3 songs (Moocow records)

This band doesn't exist anymore as is stated on the sleeve and even though I think Moocow is one of the coolest labels around, I can't get into this. Way too slow and as a result of that, boring 'doom' core (is it okay to use that new term?) Not my style at all. They are kinda original, I have to admit that! Maybe those who like slow stuff (I can enjoy some Saint Vitus though...), should try it out I guess.

Extinction-What you have created 7". 4 songs (Catalyst records / Cartel)

Catalyst records does what people expect from them: Putting out vegan edge metal. That's exactly what Extinction is. Slow and heavy guitar-riffing and lyrics about animals and the earth. While many get tired from most of these bands I seem to find some good in most of them. Not that it's my favourite style but hey, when you just check out the awesome booklet with lyrics and explanations you'll have to agree that there's heart and sincerity here. I like that. It's metal and it's heavy and it's vegan. Typical? Yeah, maybe. Still, pretty good!

Eyeball-MCD, Advance tape (Crucial Response Records)

By the time you read this the cd should be out, right now it isn't. Thanks to the 'donut-crew' guys I got a tape with the songs that will appear on the 7" and on the mcd (some extra). I guess I don't need to say what they sound like. I guess that they're Germany's most popular SxS band by now (kids going crazy in Holland when Eyeball only had on song out!!). Fresh, aggressive and positive! Some kids have their say here!!

Far Apart-Hazel 7". 3 songs (Carcrash records)

ow, this is good stuff. That's when you like post-hardcore and alternative music like Sunnyday realestate or Texas is the reason but then with a little more 'rock' in it. Far Apart have a real good singer who really ad a lot to this energetic and emotional band. I like the titlesong the most but the other songs are cool as well. Oh well, you should just buy this!

Fault-Fault 7". 4 songs (Words of War records / Cartel)

Funny that you can often tell that whenever a record has those battlefield type of artwork that they play 'edge metal'. Well, Fault is no exception. The lyrics aren't really in that typical 'vegan' style but more in a personal vein which is kinda good. I can't really say that I would play this that often therefor it's not really original enough or maybe I'm not trained enough to hear much difference with other bands in the genre. Not bad but not outstanding either.

59 times the pain- twenty percent of my hand lp. 13 songs (Genet records)

I gave this a review before in issue #8 but as Genet gave me the vinyl version I write a few lines again (he, everything will be reviewed and we'll keep that promise!). I heard some rumours about these dudes but fact is that this album rocks! Milky vinyl (colour is the thing for Genet records, every record is on coloured vinyl) with the lyrics on the back (I like inlay-

In a wonderfull glossy cover comes the first demo from this, till now, unknown Dutch band. They play metal-influenced hardcore that's not as technical as most of their fellow-colleague's The singer has a pretty unique voice that's both screeching and high. Not really outstandingly good but not bad either. I think there's a certain lack of real power here, but that's something they should prove when playing live. At least the soundquality is way better than most other bands first demo.

Grade-Separate the magnets cd. 7 songs (Second Nature)

Oh my goodness!!!! This is unbelievable!! I enjoyed Grade's first album but this blows it all away! Great melodies, great vocals, both melodic and harsh... Emotional and agressive... I hear Sunny Day Real Estate and then again, it's totally original! Best album in the emotional genre ever! The lyrics are so great. You got to read 'Symptoms of simplifying the simplistic'... It doesn't get more simple to say things... Next to my love for energetic old-school, this does the trick. What an amazing band and I heard that they're even better live! I'm hooked (except for the 'fun-song' at the end maybe... I take that as it is, a joke)

Hatebreed-Satisfaction is the death of desire cd. 14 songs (Victory records)

I think I'm one of the few persons that isn't so enthusiastic about this record. Not that Hatebreed isn't

I against I-Headcleaner cd. 14 songs (Epitaph records)

Quite surprisingly here's I against I's full-length. To be honest I expected more. While their first mcd was really fresh and enthusiastic, these aspects are what I think are lacking on their full-length. Instead of a more fanatic and rougher sound they choosed to play more melodic and even more mellow. I often thought of Green Day when I played this record. And to be honest, that's not my favourite band... Ofcourse, for Holland, this is really good punkrock and the lyrics are pretty good as well (what about 'Utopia'? I guess I don't really get that...).

Inflexible-Progress by hatred. Tape 8 songs (Youth culture.Po box 39. 02-303 Warszawa 79. Poland)

Like almost any Polish band, the lay-out looks great! All full-colour and anyone who can beat the straight edge pic. On the back wins a price! I guess you can consider this Inflexible's first album. Okay, they play metal. This has nothing to do with hardcore anymore. I didn't hear one thing that came even close to the music I love so much. Inflexible however isn't bad. They play real slow, dark and evil (ofcourse!) vegan edge metal.Dark and evil lyrics which I'm not to happy about but that's what they choose. When you like demons, black metal, darkness and satan's compagnions, you'll like this for sure. The music really isn't bad. Doom-metal! Yep, that's it (I'd

Boy Sets Fire.



sheets...) I play this!

Floorpunch-Division One Champs, Goal line Stand cd. 12 songs (Equal Vision Records)

For those who don't have the demo and the 7" (okay, I have to admit here something: I may say every now and then how I'm not that much in collecting... Well, I've got all the different pressings from these guys 7"... sorry! Ha,ha). Everyone must know these guys by now and you'll know what they stand for: straight edge with a 'violent' edge. I really like to find out what these guys really are about. A lot of rumours are floating around on the internet and I'd love to talk face to face with these dudes and find out. Oh well, I love this music and "keep it clear" and "persevere" are my favourite songs.

Forced Into / Bloodpath-split 7". 4 songs (Bridge records)

Bloodpath takes off with a really long, but quite interesting intro (a sample) before they burst out in great chaos! Fast and furious! I wouldn't call this power-violence as the vocals are more screamed and there really isn't room for any calmness. Great! Forced Into is a little less intense but still keeps me interested. Another pretty good release from this fairly new label.

48 chances-demo. 6 songs (Garnt Swinkels, Wolfswinkel 3, 5691 PC Son, Netherlands)

coalesce



good at what they're doing, and sure, they improved a lot since their mcd. But it's just that this hatecore can't really hold my interest very long. Sure, awesome sound and they're one of the meanest and loads of people disagree with me... oh well, just not my thing, okay?

H2O-Harder than water cd. 16 songs (Epitaph records)

H2O on Epitaph. Their debut album was at the time one of the most positive releases to come out and I think that they have had their influence in the current rise of new positive bands and I couldn't be more happy for that. Well, this is their second release and they go on where they left. Although, due to the more slick production and less talk between songs this is just not as enthusiastic as their first release. Still, however, great, really great music where sincerity shows everywhere. And hey, not only 'unity'-like lyrics but some good serious ones as well, check out "responsible" for example. But this album is overall positive and energetic. There's great singalongs, awesome vocals from Toby(as far as my information goes: this dude is also Straight edge, not that it really matters... it's just another cool thing!). I can't help but love this band! (I can't really say that of their tattoo-style, but who cares?). Recommended to those who could need a good injection of positivity!



rather play St. Vitus myself but this is okay).

Ink & Dagger-Drive this seven inch wooden stake through my philadelphia heart cd. 10 songs. (Initial records)

Unlike many others I never was a fan of vampire activities. I never even liked dracula movies and to be honest: I laugh about their 'blood-sucking' and evil looks. I guess that it's just not my style to think about sleeping in a coffin. So, I can't really understand what this band is all about and even though their music is original and driving I don't really know what to do with this band. I guess I have to see them live once to see what they really are about. Right now, with all the corpse paint and stuff I can't really take this serious. Maybe it's all art that I don't understand... Weird stuff. Musically really not bad at all it's just that their image gets in the way of the music to me.

Inner dam-Through the eyes of suffering 7". 4 songs (released power/existence of hate records)

New schoolish and brutal hardcore with a remarkable double bass in the song "conviction" I never heard of this band but it's really not bad at all!! It reminded me a bit of Unbroken, maybe Strain... Dark vocals and lyrics full of pain and suffering. You know the picture. Though this is pretty good!

Innerface-Season in hell cd. 8 songs (impression records)

What to expect with a title like that? Innerface is like when Carcass (or at least the vocals) would play hardcore. There's really deep and growling vocals and there's pretty much straight forward music. It's fast and has double bass (and then again, has slow parts) but it isn't as violent or chaotic like Coalesce or anything. Real violent artwork with guns and stuff and this picture of corpses that I think is pretty sickening. You guessed it; Not so much a spark of optimism. But hey, I'm sure that Innerface doesn't want that either. The straight forward metallic hardcore and deep vocals goes together. Different stuff that doesn't however makes me smile.

Invictus-Never forget your commitment cd. 18 songs (whitehouse records)

What do you mean, straight edge? This is the deal! Aggressive and heavy New York style (like Madball etc.) mean hardcore with a brutal kinda tough guy voice. Unity, straight edge and a lifelong commitment. That's what these guys are all about! "I walk the edge of purity" I never was a real fan of this style but this does break some ground. When you're into HARD core but dislike the lack of straight edge in the New York bands... You won't be disappointed with Invictus!

John Doe band-Napkind mcd. 5 songs. (No Looking Back records)



Formerly known as Content this is actually the debut cd from this band. In the biography these guys are compared with both Samiam and The Promise Ring and they're indeed right on those bands. Especially The Promise Ring must have been a major influence for them. This band certainly can match up with their comparables from the States. Marcus has an awesome voice and the music and lyrics are beyond a simple 'good'. When you're into emo-like bands this is essential!

Kafka-Black Out 7". 5 songs (No! Records)

Finally, Italia is getting it's hardcore scene back. When Italia used to be one of the countries where so many bands came from for years nothing really happened. Well, they're getting back on it! Kafka plays metallic hardcore with just enough of that old-style flavour to not make it boring. Too bad the lyrics are in Italian (although there's an explanation) otherwise this is just fine band. Cool that the cover says: "pay no more than..." you hardly see that anymore.

Kickboxing is not a crime-Compilation cd. 26 songs (Released Power prod./Existence of hate records)

A sampler that's made for those who like it hard. It's not just the title that makes that remark. What about the bands? Enrage, Citizen Pain, Blood 4 Blood, Face Down, Step Aside and Tied Down. I'm not so much

into that 'harder than you' style music but there's some quality bands here. I liked Face Down and Step Aside. In fact: You can't really go wrong on this album, I mean there's 26 songs on it. But as said: For those who like it hard.

Lärm-Extreme noise cd. 75(!) songs. (Coalition records / red as fuck records)

Finally, I should have bought this a long time ago already but just never did... now I got it for review... And I can't be objective on this one. This brings back so much memories... Where I bought Lärm's "straight on view" lp, how I loved the "Nothing is hard." 7", how I got into punkrock and hardcore... I think that this was the first band that got me interested in straight edge! The stickers, the flyers, they're all on this beautifully packed album. I loved to see them all again... Anyone, just anyone that lives (especially) in Holland should get this cd. It's essential to know about your roots. This is where it's at for our little country. Man, and then the fact that (most of) these guys are still going strong in Seein' Red!! I love this! (oh, I forgot... The music is trash / noise... nah, this is hardcore (say) '86 style! Man, this band really was an influence I'll never forget!

Liar-Invictus lp. 13 songs (Genet records)

I remember being not too enthusiastic about Liar's debut. And to be honest, it isn't a record I play weekly. But with their second release they convince me of the fact that they are one of the leading troops from



Belgium! Maybe that the quote on the back that says: "Warfare against your drug generation" does it. Or their pure straight edge message and lyrics. I don't know. The fact that these guys are already pretty old and still really proud of what the X means... Maybe that does it! And although I don't really want to compare 'em with anything else... I loved Kreator's Pleasure to kill! Ha, ha! I really am impressed!

Minion-Minion 7". 6 songs. (Paracelsus Records)

Quite a surprise this band from Germany. They play some sort of Powerviolence but not so much the real 'violent' style. They manage to create some real original type of music with both melodic and real fast and aggressive parts. A great lay-out (skateboard pictures rule anyway!) and cool lyrics ("rebel") finishes this good 7" off.

Morning Before-Morning Before demo. 6 songs (Matthias Rauch, Rheinstr.50, 76337 Waldbronn)

Just when I thought that this poppy emo-style had its best days, Morning Before proves me wrong! Awesome, really awesome melodic pop-core(?) with great vocals from Julia. Mostly bands with female singers are compared with Ashes. This band is too good for that! Maybe you know how much I like March? Well, This band comes close! I heard they were going to record a 7" or even a cd, otherwise I would really like to do that for 'em! A great band!

Mother earth-compilation cd. 16 songs/16 bands. (Impression records)

This album is already out for quite a while but as it's a benefit for imprisoned animal liberators still really worth getting. Most bands appearing on this cd are playing that new school type hardcore and most songs are about animal liberation. Names? Pole*, Endstand, Constraint, Contempt, End in Sight and a whole bunch more. Just for the good cause worth getting!

Nations on fire-Death of the pro-lifer lp. 15 songs (Genet records)

This is out for a long long time but I got it for review so a review I do! This is Edwards Goodlife old band. This is dedicated to 'pro-choice' and the title is about the death of the king of Belgium who was pro-life till death (hmm... that's a weird sentence!). I like the statements made and although I'm pro-life I'm definitely pro-choice! Let that be known (okay, that's once and for all. End of discussion. Hey what can I say? I'm a guy!) Nice document!

97A-Abandoned Future ep cd. (Coalition records / Teamwork records)

Although I gave this a review in issue #9, I'll do it again. This is the cd version from the Abandoned Future 12". Sure, it doesn't look as good as the vinyl version (nothing beats a good round piece of plastic!). This doesn't have the complete lyrics which kinda sucks (although you can order them from Teamwork,



and I'm sure that the big guy who does Coalition will copy them for you as well). Okay, I guess this is essential when you don't have a pick-up (is that correct english for a record-player? That's Old school I guess!), One of the best bands around these days!

Nipper-Psalms of purification cd. 7 songs. (Bad Influence records)

It's a shame that the recording (sound) quality of this record is so poor because I kinda like this simply played, no nonsense punk rock. Rougher than the average skate-punk band but with enough melodies to not get bored. Intelligent lyrics are also a positive thing here. You rarely read anti-meat lyrics with this style of music and that's great. This album even grew a little on me. And that's a good thing as well. Yeah, pretty cool album!

NoFx-So long and thanks for all the shoes cd. 16 songs (Epitaph records)

Even though I don't like the music and the 'hype' around this band (I guess it's kinda gone by now...) I admire the fact that they don't want to have anything to do with major-press and interviews. I kinda like that. Oh, I almost forgot: The new album. I have an idea I have heard this like a million times before. They however play that NoFx music a little more 'punk' and a little more 'rough'. And I have to be honest, their humor does make me smile once in a while (thanking

for equipment and saying you sold it all to buy crack...). I can listen to this but it's not the music that 'feeds' me.

Now or never / Hint-split 7". 7 songs (Destination records)

Two Swedish bands from a label who's owner also does 'Sense of Guilt' zine. That's two great things! His own band Now or Never is on this split and the other band is called Hint. Now or Never plays kinda traditional hardcore, fast parts and all but the singer has this harsh edge-metal voice. A bit strange at first but after playing it some more, I found it pretty original. Great lyrics, about Straight edge, Gay-rights ("Designed love" has great singalong '7 seconds style awesome!) and standing strong (real personal!). The other band Hint plays more of an emo-style with melodic parts and real mellow vocals. Then again harsh vocals as well. Two bands who are both at the beginning but still can play their part!

Oil-demo. 7 songs (Poisoned Youth records)

Great production and great songs! These "Metal Free Youths" keep the "Metal out of our scene". Pure, old school hardcore with angry lyrics against smokers, coloured vinyl collectors, sell-outs and metal. Is this the Dutch Project X? Fast hardcore, energy and pissed off as nothing else. How could I not like this? There's still some doubts how serious the lyrics are, but hey, how serious was Project X?

Oil-same title 7". 6 songs (Commitment records)

And here's the 7"! Packed in a beautiful lay-out this is the 7" that came from the demo. As from that demo were only fourty made you can't do anything else than just get this 7". It's great! Except for the "You make us sick" song they're all on this piece of plastic. This is the first release from Robert's label with many more to come that covers the new breed of Dutch old-school hardcore bands. I'm already excited about what's going to leave the presses the next few months. Oil promises a lot already (you GOT to see the picture on the label, hoods up and masked!) and there's gonna be more!!!

One Last Sin-Demo. 4 songs (One last sin, 37 Weston Ave. Fishkill, NY 12524 USA)

It's always great to receive demo's from individual bands or people. This was one of those. The cover shows a picture from Satan killing a few of our fellow "earth-lings". (How's that for a magazine that was/is known for it's interest in spiritual issues...ha, ha). Well, what do you think? Yep, you're right: Metal. But pretty good and not with any hardcore influences at all! (okay, that's kinda sarcastic... This is really pretty dark and evil!). I don't know if they have anything out by know. But I'm sure that a whole lot of people love this band!!

Outlast / Endstand-split 7". 6 songs (Bridge records/grey days)

A band from Finland and a band from Sweden here. Endstand surprised me last year at the leper fest and with their 'Tolerance' 7". The songs on this split are rather different (they're older!). Way more metal and way not as good! The song "human Beast" is due to the vocals and sing-a-longs pretty original though. Outlast music is the music I love! Great old-school with fast parts and mosh pieces inbetween. What makes 'em stand out is that with Henrik they have a great singer. Pretty nice lay-out and just overall worth your money.

Outlast-Trust mcd. 8 songs (Wounded records)

Just when I wanted to end this review-section I got this mini cd from Outlast. Where I love the music, the sound on this one is so poor that it gets in the way of what they play (that rhym!). In the middle of the booklet it says: "Our music and message will always be positive" and that's something I love to read! Cool explanations with the lyrics and good music. It's just that very poor sound...

O.U.T.S.I.D.E.-A change of life mcd 8 songs (Siton records)

You like Madball, You like Agnostic Front? Well, Outside (I'm not going to type that name all over again, with all these points in between!) is like those bands. This band is from Belgium and honestly I never heard of them. Do they even still exist? This is pretty good when you like that brutal hardcore new-york-style...Not my favourite music but this band knows how to play it!

Outstand-same title 7". 2 songs (Carcrash records)

From Sweden these guys come and the bandname may sound like these boys play the old-school-style, they don't. The first song "demin" is really melodic and actually pretty original. Sensefield comes to mind although Outstand rocks more. They have a really good singer and that makes 'em stand out already. The first line is pretty cool (and pretty emo...) "this day is dying so let us talk over a bottle of non-alcoholic wine". Pretty Straight edge huh!! Really, this is one of the best bands in this genre that I heard lately. Give it a listen when you run into this!

Overcast-Expectational dillution cd. 12 songs (Edison records)

The second release that I hear from Overcast. I really couldn't tell what they did for 7'es or anything. It wasn't until now that I took real interest in 'em. They play diverse metal core with 'normal' vocals and an extreme 'grunt' like voice. Not unlike Vison of Disorder but the music is different! More complex and more metal. Sometimes during the first time I listened to this I was wondering if this is still hardcore enough for this zine. But hey, the attitude's here. Although the lyrics may not show that directly, the emotions are here. I was impressed the first few songs... then it kinda got boring. That's just my restless soul I guess. This is good, really!

Overcast-Fight Ambition to kill cd. 8 songs (Edison records)

And here's the third one! And I'm really impressed. Maybe the fact that I played this over the headphone on my new stereo (yeah! It was about time!) but this blew me away! The most heavy (and I mean heavy!!!! Or 'More metal than your ma's kettle') album I heard to come out of hardcore and maybe the most metal as well. But Overcast goes beyond. This album is diverse enough to not even bore me and has a power that even could make Coalesce nervous! I really am impressed! And when a metal band does that... Believe me, it's awesome!

Palatka / Asshole Parade-split lp. 22 songs (Coalition records)

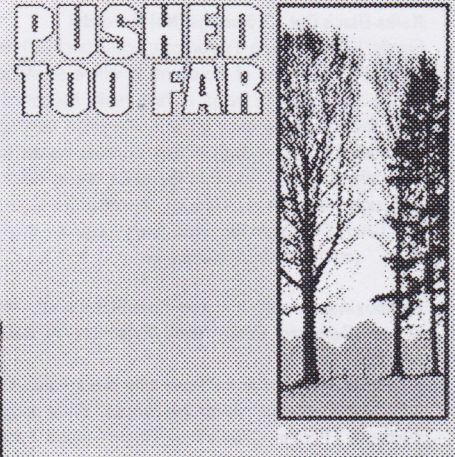
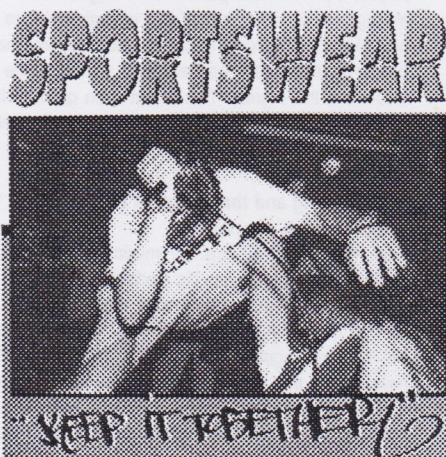
I got this album at a Systral show, not like it matters but I just wanted to mention that bands as Systral reminded me how awesome good grindcore can be, oh well. There's two extreme bands on this lp (or 12" ep, as it should be played at 45rpm) and they both rule! The more I hear this kinda music the more I like it. Although it's not something I could play all day... Noisy, trash, or should I say 'power-violence' as that's the new name for this stuff. I love all the samples between the songs, especially Asshole Parade does that and I guess that's the reason I like that band just a little bit more than Palatka (although their name is cooler!). I'm happy to have this record! Did I mention how awesome Coalition's lay-outs are?

Point of few-Advance tape. 13 songs (Point of few, Marteun Poolman, Semmelweisstr.13 7909 AE Hoogeveen, Holland)

They told me that they didn't know yet if this was going to be released one way or another but they sent me this tape to talk a bit about their music. Well, Marteun told me that they played a bit like Seein Red, or 97a. I think he comes close, maybe Point of Few is a little heavier and a bit more chaotic as Seein Red. They have songs about animal liberation, politics and some pe(e)rsonal issues as well. The sound quality could be much better and they warned me for that, so that's all alright. I just think that it would improve the overall feel a lot! Quite a promise, this band, the enthusiasm and energy is here for sure!

Pridebowl/Adhesive-No better no worse. Split mcd. 6 songs (Bad Taste records / Sonic Rendezvous)

Punkrock from Sweden. Again. It seems that that country has schools where you can learn to play an instrument and that punkrock is the only music they know off. And again, two bands that are pretty good. Hey, I suddenly know how these bands are so good at singing along! Abba was so good at it! And they're from Sweden as well! Yep, I found the answer! Nah, just kidding. Another two good punk bands, with no lyrics so I can't say anything else...



Pulley-60 cycle hum cd. 14 songs (Epitaph records)

An all-star punkrock band. I think that's something a lot of reviewers will say. I mean having members from Strung Out, Ten Foot Pole, No Use for a Name is something that would make people interested, wouldn't it? And yeah, when you like the bands mentioned I'm pretty sure you'll dig this too. And it seems that the skate-punk-rock hype isn't really over yet so I guess this should easily find it's way to many baggy-trousers-wearing youngsters.

Punishable Act-Where it came from mcd. 4 songs (Mad Mob records)

I shouldn't judge a record by it's cover but when I saw the logo and the picture I knew what to expect: Brutal, mean, New York style hardcore. Punishable Act however isn't bad! When a band like Ryker's can be successful, why couldn't Punishable act? For sure, not my style of music at all but when you're into what I just said, then give this band a chance!

Pure-Message. Tape 7 songs (Youth Culture. Po Box 39. 02-303 Warszawa 79 Poland)

Polish, new school straight edge with no worries to play metal. I was really surprised by the statement Pure makes in the (really goodlooking, full-colour) booklet. They say to not wanting to make statements about pro-life, abortion or anything of that matter "We do not possess the monopoly for truth." Now that's something you rarely see and I like that! The music isn't really my favourite, rather slow and metallic but really not bad at all! These bands deserve some more interest! There really are good bands coming from Poland!

Pushed too far-Lost time 7". 4 songs (Teamwork records)

To be honest: I expected something really good and this was a bit of a disappointment. Their song on the Growing Stronger compilation is really good and let's face it: this 7" doesn't have that intensity. Sure, still great music but the vocals are way not fanatic enough, and also a bit soft in the production. Not bad but I expected bigger things!

Rad-dialed 7". 7 songs (Special Forces Records)

Jump on your bike! Old school BMX-ing is back!! Positive hardcore, straight edge and the bike-track, that's what Rad is all about! Crucial Youth came to mind music-wise. I love this, even though I think that skateboarding is cooler than BMX. And why isn't there a 'thank you to' Matt Hofmann? He is the king of BMX afterall! Cool record!

Rain on the Parade-Full speed ahead 7". 8 songs (My War Records)

I could tell how much positivity there's on this record or how great the music is. I won't. This is my favourite band right now. That's how much I like it! Essential. No, that's not a recommendation. That's an order! What a band... It left me speechless! This is a gift!!!!!!

Recognize the real-The demo's, compilation cd. 24 songs from 4 bands) (EEC)

What the heck? Why am I not aware of all these bands coming from the north of Holland? Suddenly I get a cd with 4 bands where I just knew Victimized. This is compiled by a whole bunch of friends calling themselves the Eightyfour Eleven Crew. It's a great alternative! There's four bands on this: Just a fight, Lowlife, Fatal Justice and Victimized. They all play 'kinda' old-style hardcore and I hear influences from NYC-style bands, Oi! and just plain out grind-stuff. All bands have kinda 'burly' vocals, some with a growling edge, others more 'tough' (victimized). When I heard this for the first time I heard these awesome 'uhs', which reminded me of Tom Warrior from Celtic Frost,

so Lowlife rules!! A cool compilation which can be ordered at EEC, Aengwilderwei 189a, 8459 BM Luinjeberd. They asked me to mention that, so here it was! Frysland hardcore rocks! And hey, I like your unity!

Refused-The shape of punk to come cd. 12 songs (Burning Heart Records / Sonic Rendezvous)

I don't know if Refused are right or wrong with that title. Fact is that with this album they created a classic! Refused has always been a band that progressed and improved with every record. After their last and very well sold "Songs to ban the flames..." they dared and did something no other band could do. They were always known for political, hell, even revolutionary lyrics and statements... They even went beyond. You can't really compare Refused with any other band. They aren't afraid to use Cello's and even 'dance' rhythm's. Suzanne loves this even more than I do. Just look at the artwork and play the first song that's 7 minutes long. You'll understand that you got a masterpiece in front of you!

Satanic Surfers-Hero of our time lp. 13 songs (Genet records)

I was thinking... When someone would ask me what punk/skate/rock band was the best these days or what record was the best, I think that Satanic Surfers could very well be the band that I would mention. This is re-released on vinyl by Genet records and he, I like vinyl better as cd's so I can't say anything else than that I'm really happy with this record and that when you don't have this album yet, why not get this vinyl version?

Seein Red-Discography cd. 22 songs (Coalition records)

From Dutch old(er) schoolers, and that's not '88 style!, comes this cd wich covers four 7"es that they released between 1993 and 1995. Coalition records did their usual (and always different!!!) great lay-out job and the result is another document of Dutch' long-lasting real punkband. No compromise and punk as fuck! I don't always agree with all their lyrics and statements but whenever you're able to keep true to your ideals as these guys do... I can't have anything else but a lot of respect. If there was (and ever will be?) I don't think this band will ever quit!! a band that may carry the label 'political punk' than it's Seein' Red.

Sektor-Human spots of rust lp. 11 songs (Sober mind records)

An overall metal touch.... But I'm getting used to it and even getting to like it sometimes. And that's when the bands are good. Well, musicwise Sektor is definitely ahead of many others. Really not bad! It's just that I can't get used to vampires, castles, bats and the likes in hardcore. Not to speak of types like "Baphomet". I can't find any 'real' hardcore lyrics (Sure, that's just my opinion) as said, really not bad at all but not the hardcore(?) I was used to

Separation / Serene-Split 7". 5 songs (Genet records)

Separation is totally under-rated! They are one of the best and most energetic bands from Northern Europe. They've gone 'back' to playing the fast and furious music that (real?) hardcore is. The album grabbed my attention, these three songs made me a fan! Serene plays more metallic (and thus?) modern style hardcore that's pretty good as well. Why don't these bands play more often in Holland?

Shai Hulud-Hearts once norished with hope and compassion cd. 9 songs (Revelation records/Sonic Rendezvous)

And the 'new school' keeps on re-newing itself. Everytime when I think that there's an end to the style new bands come up and make music that's different and more diverse. What's there to say? I sometimes

wish that it would be a little more simple again. There's so much stuff coming out that is really good that it's sometimes too overwhelming. What to buy next? Shai Hulud is one of those new bands coming out of nothing with an album that is so good that I just don't understand where they get it from. Maybe not totally my style, sure. But I know that there's a lot of people that are into metallic hardcore and than I can only give one advice: Check this out!

Six and Violence-Petty Staycheck cd. 14 songs (SFT records)

Pfew... What to say about this band? I remember that I liked Adrenalin OD, Stikky... bands like that. Funny hardcore with often good musicianship. These guys are like that as well. They know how to play their instruments and the band is totally about humor. And I can surely appreciate some stupidity once in a while. It's just that it gets boring when you play this music often. That's what happened with me. I can laugh about the lyrics once and that's it. Really, they're not that bad... I guess I have a different kind of humor. That they know how to handle their instruments is obvious. It's fast, it's weird, it's jazzy... freakin' stuff.

Sky falls down/Paradesend-split 7". 4 songs. (Moocow records)

Two, to me, unknown bands. They both play harsh, yet melodic hardcore. Not so much like 'post' hardcore but certainly no old-school either. I think they managed to do their own thing. I liked Sky Falls Down the most, not only due to their variety in music (and great vocals) but also because their lyrics really hit some ground. I think we will hear more from this band in the future. Parades End isn't bad either, it's just that I end up playing Sky falls down the whole time...

Songs from the penalty box-Compilation cd. 21 songs (Tooth & Nail / Sonic Rendezvous)

This is a compilation with all the bands on the Tooth and Nail label. There's metal, punk, alternative and all Christian. Oh well, I guess you knew that. Bands on this cheaply priced cd (only \$5!) include: Strongarm, MxPx, Zao, Everdown, Blindsight and 16 more. When you want to check out Tooth and Nails bands, I guess this is the best way to do!

Sons of Abraham-Termities in his smile cd. 10 songs (Exit Records/Sonic Rendezvous)

Except for a weirdest title Sons of Abraham have something else: The best double bass since Dave Lombardo from Slayer! They play metal (woops, again...) with some hardcore influences not unlike Indecision or Tripface, two other bands on this label that slowly but surely picks up all the big promises. Lovely lay-out and the (if I may say so...) typical vague lyrics that seems to be a part of this music. That however doesn't mean that they're bad! ("turned state evidence" has some good lines!). When you're into the above mentioned bands and you like metal with a good voice and loads of breaks. Get this, it won't bring you down!

Spirit-7". 4 songs Ressurrection A.D. records)

I don't know if anyone read the review about this band in Second Nature zine but the guy who wrote that was totally blown away by this. He thought this was really awesome. Hardcore it was meant to be. Furious, fast and energetic. You know what? I couldn't agree with him more!

Spirit 84-demo. 4 songs (Johannes Nouta, Lemmerweg 46, 8521 JP, St.Nicolaasga, holland)

I'm not going to spend many words on this band. Check out the song on the compilation, read the interview. You'll know I am impressed. Frysland hardcore rocks!

Spirit of Youth-Source lp. 13 songs (Sobermind records/Genet rec.)

I could easily understand that when you never heard of these boys you would buy this without listening because hey, with a name like that, it can't be anything else than old-school hardcore. Well, you're wrong. Or maybe not totally. They're way not as metallic as many other Belgian bands but do have some riffs every now and then that are 'stolen' from the good heavy metal (huh...). Really not bad at all although the vocals are boring me in the end. And I think that when they would play totally old-style and kept out the metal... They could be huge!

newschool, but with an energy and aggression that only a few know to create. Is there any need to say that this is a Christian band? I don't think so. People shouldn't judge this because they might think different. Well, at least they would miss out on great music and, when you're open-minded enough, on inspirational lyrics as well!!! When you like bands like One King Down, Brothers Keeper etc you got to get this! Really great!

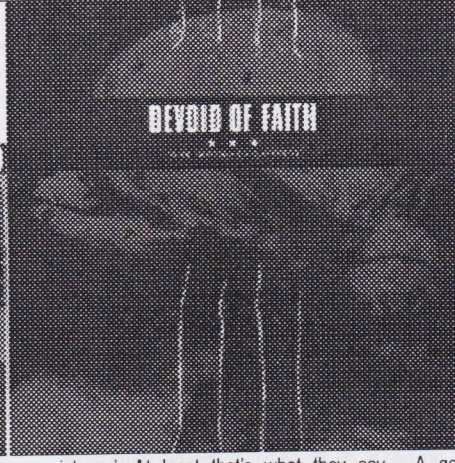
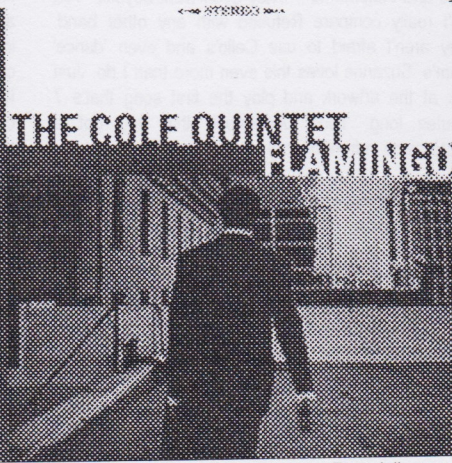
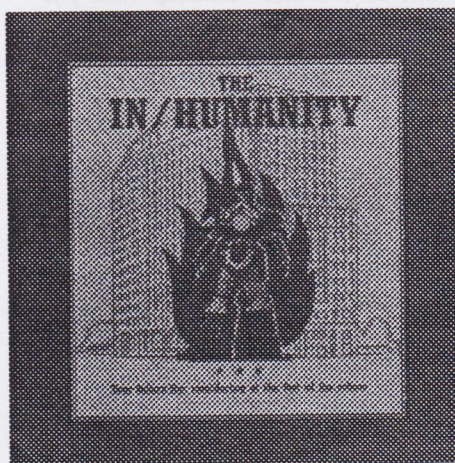
Surface-To Millenium... and beyond cd. 8 songs. (Mad Mob records)

What actually surprised me most from this German band were the lyrics. They're really well-written and

Hands Tied and the other way around? This is what keeps us together, this is the real unity. I love this (and Coalesce a bit more while Suzanne loves The Get Up Kids...)

The In/Humanity-Your future lies smoldering at the feet of the robots 7". 3 songs (Coalition records)

How to describe this? Powerviolence? I guess that's what most people would say. This is weird music. It's pretty slow and even melodic and then there's these 'violent' outbursts. It's all about robots and apart from the great drawings the robot story is great. I liked the song 'burn it to the ground' the most as it got great lyrics. Oh, I got to file it under 'East coast emo



Sportswear-Keep it together 7". 4 songs (Crucial response records)

And the king of old school does it again! Another awesome looking record (hey, that backcover reminds me of something! I just can't remember what is... wasn't that something with kids having their say or something? Hmmmm...) Four old school songs about that spirit that's still here. Sportswear comes from Oslo and revolves around the Onward people. Cool record but I don't see the use of thanking Tommy Hilfiger, Nike, Ralph Lauren and do I know what fashion-designers... Still, very 'fashionable' in your recordcollection!!

from a different 'angle' or so to say. Especially songs like "Earth observer" or "Metamorphosis to evil" are great. Surface plays new-school hardcore (that means metal-influenced... am I right? ha, ha, and they're good! In my personal opinion they should although play music as the last (hidden) song (I have no title...)). But everyone knows by now that I'm an old man living in the (past) old school days. But enough jokes. This is another great release from Germany. And the title from this album is beyond cool, isn't it?

violence'. At least that's what they say... A good description! Another cool Coalition release!

Theioneband-The kids are dead. Demo, 8 songs (Good Intentions, pl: 54293 Mariestad, Sweden)

Oh my goodness, how to describe this? There quite some weird bands coming from Sweden and this is one of them. (next to say, Said I was) They just play whatever they feel like it seems. Noisy and chaotic punk (?) I guess that's what fits best. There's a bit of quietness and calmness in places with real mellow and melodic vocals and then it's bursts of energy and chaos. Real, real political lyrics with explanations with all the songs. Oh, there's an anti Pepsi flyer included talking about Pepsi supporting the Burma government and therefore supporting the killing of innocent people. Something to think about when lurking the 'choice of a next generation'! I can't help but like the originality and outspoken views from this band. Cool demo! (oh the song "revolution is on the way" is really good!!!) Recommended for people who want to try something new!

The Slackers-Redlight cd. 12 songs (Hellcat / Epitaph records)

Although I'm not a regular listener to ska, even though I like the Mighty Mighty Bosstones for example, I can tell you that this band is one of the best in that genre. Really 'jazzy' ska where it's obvious that these guys (officially seven, but there are loads of guests on this album) know how it should be done. I can't help it but get visions from smokey bars where too much alcohol flows. Obvious, not my idea. When you like the slower and more melodic (jazz) ska, you'll like this. I don't think I'll play this often. And to be honest. Why send this to a hardcore zine?

Thumbs Down-Going for gold mcd. 8 songs. (Genet records)

I remember seeing Thumbs Down for the first time at the famous leper fest and to be real honest, I wasn't that impressed. But then, about 3 months ago or something Steven, their singer sent me the tape with the same songs that are on this disc. And I loved it! Great old-schoolish hardcore with a punkrock touch to

Static 84-Inner wall mcd. 8 songs (Bad Influence records)

Whenever I read a statement in a cd-inlay as the one that Stefan from Bad Influence wrote I can't do anything else than give releases good points. This is for the band, for the people and for the alternative. Honest music (punkrock, melodic yet aggressive enough to have that 'bite') Not any false pretensions. The inlay is a real cool poster by the way. I like records like this. Honest and real. I love the lyrics from "For those who failed" I was touched....

Still the same feeling-compilation 7". 7 songs / 4 bands (Keep it alive records)

Four new 'old-style' bands from Germany: Proud Youth, Dedication, Impressions, Reject. I was most impressed by "Impressions". The lay-out of this 7" is totally old-school-style with the used fonts and even the huge 'X' on the cover, I love it! The bands play not so much that 'clean-cut' '88 youth crew style, but more the 'early' Uniform Choice kinda hardcore which I happen to like just as much! So, I can't do anything else than give this a two thumbs up!

Strongarm-The advent of a miracle cd. 9 songs (Tooth and nail records/Sonic Rendezvous)

And everytime I think I am getting too negative about 'metal' playing bands there's one to totally blow me away!!! I remember One King Down who surprised me. Now it's Strongarm. I was told to give this a listen so I was happy to find it in my mailbox. This is

The Cole Quintet-Flamingo 7". 4 songs (Paracelsus Records)

Lately I received some pretty interesting bands from Germany who try and do something new. The Cole Quintet can be shared under that category. Emotional and aggressive hardcore that can't be labeled or compared with others. Beautiful packed (simple but great lay-out!) and just another proof that there are enough people who are paving new paths! The lyrics from the song "did anything happen, yet" appealed to me for it's simplicity and direct message. I may be not too content with the music but this is a typical example of music that has to grow on you. Well done!

The Enkindel-Who here wants to fight mcd. 4 songs. (Initial records)

I couldn't tell why they changed their name from just 'Enkindel' to 'The Enkindels'. And yeah, I heard and read all about what they did and maybe still do on stage and speak about (playing totally naked...) Well, I don't care so much about that. Musically they're just punkrock and pretty good but not that this really left an impression. I like their debut album more as I think it's a bit more honest and real.

The Get Up Kids/Coalesce split 7". 2 songs (Second Nature records)

This is a really cool initiative! Coalesce does a song from the Get Up Kids and vice versa! It's great to hear two bands that are so different doing each others song. Coalesce does their best to not totally destroy the Get Up Kids one while they succeed in making a bomb into something greatly melodic. I wish more bands would do this! How about Earth Crisis doing a song from

it. Really energetic with a positive feel. Steven has a 'high' voice that stands out above many other singers. Their lyrics are kinda simple, but clear ("little gangster"). I'm happy that they're on our comp. check it out for yourself.

Torn Apart-Torn Apart 7" . 3 songs (Ferret records / Cartel)

Pfew! This is metal!!! There's even this really deep Deathgrunt-like vocals here. But also that typical screaming and even normal vocals and dubbed stuff! This is actually really good! Coalesce comes to mind but less chaotic and more tight. I never heard of this band before but people who are into extreme stuff



should check this out! This band has all the good parts from metal, powerviolence and new-school. A great 7" and I got it on purple vinyl! Yeah!

Trouble is...Tempest in a teapot 7". 4 songs (Smorgasbord records)

This is actually Jeff Terranova's band. He plays everything except for drums which are done by Jim Eaton from Subzero. This is a great record! Four melodic old-school hardcore in the Turning Point vein. When I read the following line in the song 'Passion' (that title says it!), I was lost: "You might have thought it was funny when I yelled 'Straight like an arrow'." How is that? Great emotional and personal lyrics with late Up-front kinda music. I love it.

Uncle-ABC for fuzzy little kids 7". 4 songs (Carcash records)

Well, what kind of music do you think this is according to the title? Yep, you're right emo-style-post hardcore. But I dare to say that Uncle is pretty original. There's some Fugazi influences every now and then, but overall it's maybe even more intense. The lyrics are a bit too vague I think. When those would be clearer and more direct the impact would be even bigger! Still, a good seven inch.

Uncut-Soul Kamisole demo. (Uncut, Kris Steible, Residence Artemis, 50 Rue Thetis, 34000 Montpellier/France).

The package that I got was been torn apart so there could be stuff missing as it kinda was short on info but as I don't understand any French at all anyway I can't really say a much about this, except that Uncut plays modern-style hardcore with a little NYC-style flavour every now and then. I don't think it's particularly bad but not that great either. The package and everything looks great but there's no lyrics or anything. There's a cd coming this year says a flyer. Maybe that gives more details when it's out.

Union-...You fell for it 7". 4 songs (Ferret records / Cartel)

This Buffalo-based band plays that upbeat metal-influenced hardcore that was really popular about two years ago and I think this still deserves some attention

as this is simply really good. Very good musicianship and lyrics in the personal vein. Vague but understandable. Union managed to put enough diversity into their music with (especially) enough fast parts to keep me interested. Although this isn't really metal they aren't afraid to even throw in a guitar-solo! ("Cut the strings"). Interesting band.

Unionsuit-Accidents happened 7" . 3 songs (Second Nature recordings)

Okay, this is what got my attention first, and I didn't really like it or it should be fake. There's two pictures in here that have a loose/cut off head... Next to a car-wreck (or so it seems). Really sickening and I didn't



think it was funny either... Okay, on to the music: That's pretty sickening as well! Noise, chaos and screams. That's a short description that says a lot. Unfortunately there's no lyrics involved because I couldn't tell you what they're about. Not so much my style, but I can tell you that this band is pretty good at what they're doing and I'm sure that a lot of people dig this!!

Unsure-Buckle up lp. 13 songs (Genet records)

Covered in a nicely 7" style cover (folded with inlay) is a black piece of plastic with no label info and some darn good skate/punk/pop whatever it's named these days. It's melodic, it has a certain bite and it's really enjoyable! I can't help but liking this kinda music. Not all the time, but for background-music nothing beats some good happy tunes!

Upfront-Movement cd. 18 songs (Grapes of wrath/Smorgasbord rec)

"And I'll always be straight as an arrow!!!!" That was Upfront's anthem. And hey, they're still straight. I don't know how many of it's original members are in Upfront now but it's cool to see they're still around. The music may not have the impact on me as that 'Spirit' album but when you're capable of writing lyrics like "narcotica" you don't really have to convince me. I would love to see them live and sing that 'straight as an arrow' along!

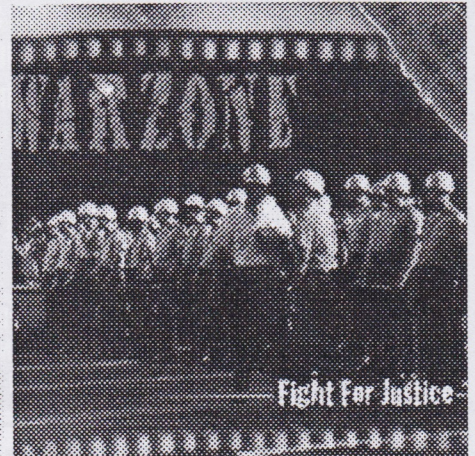
Vision-One and the same cd. 14 songs (CI records / SFT records)

I remember being one of the few people who was really into this bands debut album "In the blink of an eye" back in 1989. Man, I still record a song on these compilation tapes I make for work every once in a while! So, you can imagine I was positively surprised getting this cd! Okay, this may be a little out-dated, but then again, isn't the revival of 'old-school'? It's cool having another Vision release with unreleased tracks from the "Undiscovered" ep sessions and some good live songs from the "in the blink of an eye" album. *88 style? This WAS from '88!!!

Voice of Reason-Voice of Reason 7". 5 songs (Seize records)

To be honest, I was a bit sceptical when I saw the cover from this 7" but then, when I played it, I got turned over to some great melodic, yet aggro hardcore in the vein of later Turning Point. Even Burn and 7 Seconds came to mind. It's simple yet diverse and energetic. Lyrics about friendship, their 'crew', and self-esteem. Don't really expect the 'youth-crew' style. It's different and still familiar. I love this record!

Warzone-Fight for justice cd. 15 songs



(Victory/Sonic Rendezvous)

Everybody knows about Raybeez death by now so I think we can consider this Warzone's latest release. And that's sad. Not only because of the loss of one of the very few people who were there from the start but also because this is by far the best thing that Warzone ever did. Old-style hardcore with plenty sing-a-longs and righteous lyrics. I was (and I'm sure most of us...) always far away from "the struggle" and "the streets"... I still think I know a little about what this band stood for. This is the best farewell that Raybeez could give.

Wise Up-On the brink of ruin 7". 4 songs (Released power productions)

I don't know what went wrong but the vocals are way too soft on this record. The guitars and everything sound alright but the singer seems to shout in another room or something... Alright, Wise Up plays metallic hardcore that ain't bad but isn't really special either. The artwork and all is done really well! The lyrics are mainly political and simple but well written ("One eye guru" is a nice chosen sentence!). Not bad but those soft vocals are annoying.

Zao-The splinter shards the birth of seperation cd. 10 songs (Tooth and nail records)

Tooth and Nail means christian hardcore and that's okay with me. Zao plays modern style, which mostly means 'new school', hardcore comparable to One King Down or their label-mates Strongarm. But Zao isn't as good as those I think. Their singer lacks just the amount of originality or brutality to stand out. However that doesn't mean that this band is bad. I just heard it so many times before. Christian lyrics mostly. I like the last song "Song I" the most as the singers love for Jesus Christ is expressed there. Sure, Christianity isn't so much 'my' religion, but I can understand the singers devotion. And whenever that devotion comes from the heart and isn't forced upon others I can appreciate and respect that!

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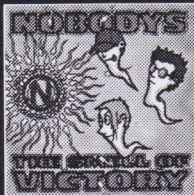
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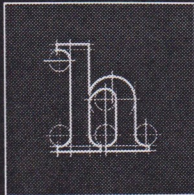


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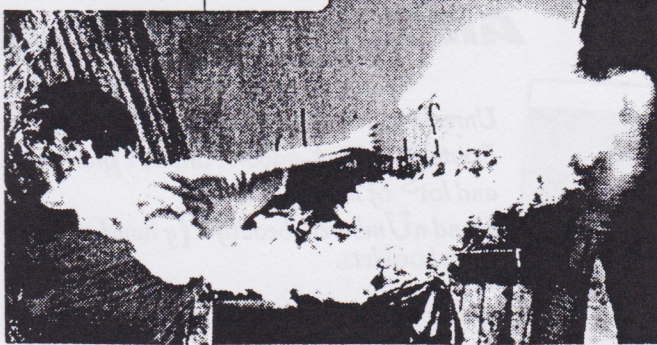
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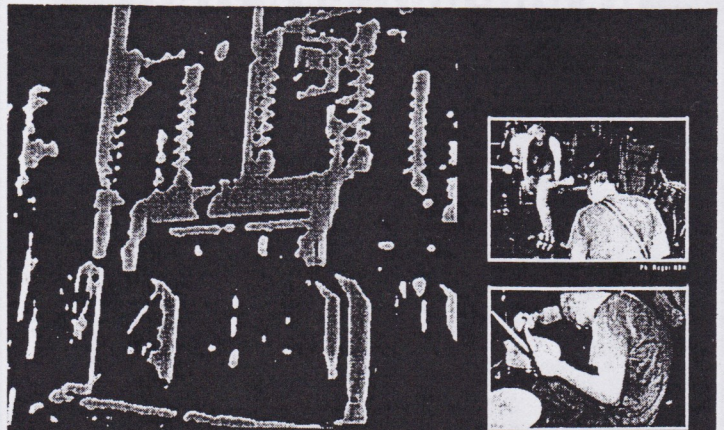
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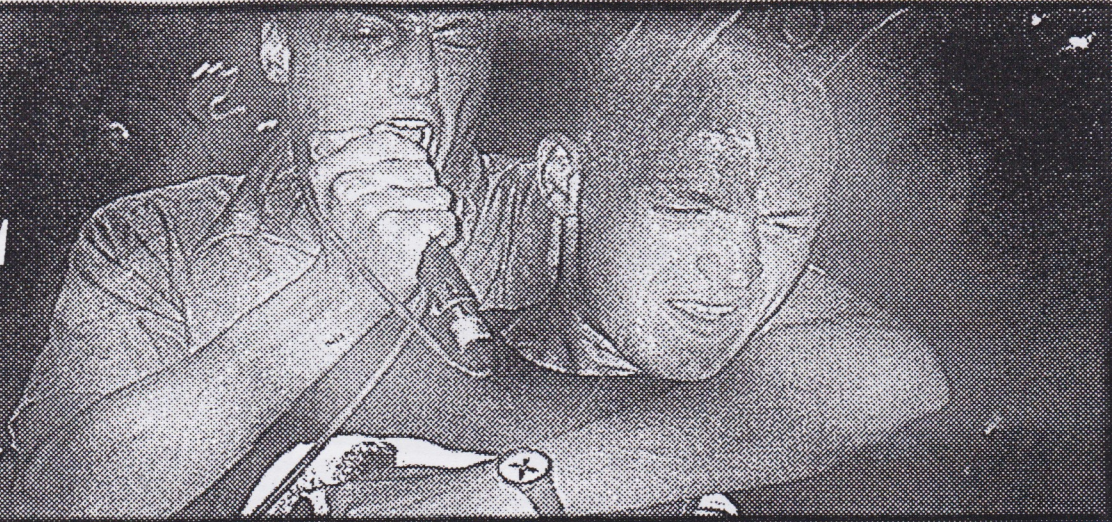
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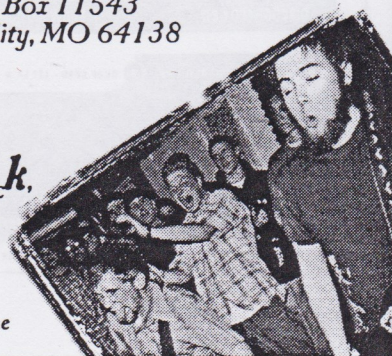
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yesterday is history
tomorrow's a mystery
but today is a gift, today is a gift
let's do something with that gift!

- rain on the parade -



*reflections is in support of a poison- and cruelty free lifestyle
and tries to walk upon the path of spiritual knowledge*

xxx ॐ xxx